

AGA2018



25TH MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY • AUGUST 17-19, PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO

MINUTES

Minutes of the 25th Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) held August 17-19, 2018, at the Showplace Performance Centre, 290 George Street North, Peterborough ON, prepared by Rae Ratslef, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

The order of the Agenda was varied throughout the AGA. Items are presented in these Minutes in the order in which they were considered and are numbered sequentially.

DAY ONE – AUGUST 17, 2018

Opening Ceremonies

The AGA commenced with the Colour Guard, Grand Entry and Procession of Métis Veterans, Senators, and members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO).

Chair Picotte called the AGA to order at 8:57 a.m. and thanked the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council for hosting this year's AGA.

Senator Terry Bloom offered an Opening Prayer.

Opening Remarks

President Andy Dufrane, Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council

President Dufrane welcomed delegates and thanked the local Community Council and staff for their hard work to organize and host this year's AGA. He spoke of the rich history and culture of the Métis, and acknowledged Métis leadership for their work with all levels of Government to build recognition.

Thomas Thompson, PCMNO Regional Councilor, Region 6

PCMNO Regional Councilor Thompson welcomed delegates and encouraged them to enjoy the AGA.

Introduction of PCMNO

Members of the PCMNO were introduced and acknowledged.

Welcoming Remarks from Dignitaries and Guests

Daryl Bennett, Mayor, City of Peterborough

Mayor Bennett welcomed delegates to Peterborough and recognized the significant role that the local Métis Council has to educate, empower and build awareness of Métis. As the process of reconciliation continues, and the right of self-determination for all peoples is honoured, we must strive to build a legacy of success and prosperity into the future. He wished delegates a very successful AGA.

Carolyn Hyslop, Executive Director, The Canadian Canoe Museum

Ms. Hyslop welcomed delegates to Peterborough, and shared that the Canadian Canoe Museum (CCM) is a small organization with large aspirations, including plans to build a new museum on the water. The CCM is reinventing how it tells the stories of people and communities, and will be reaching out across the country for help with telling the right and true story of Canada's history with a compelling narrative.

Recognition of Communications from Dignitaries

Chair Picotte acknowledged the attendance of the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Status of Women Canada, at the Métis Voyageur Canoe Launch the prior evening. Letters received from Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Mines, Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs, and Honourable Jeff Yurek, Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), were read aloud.

Phyllis Williams, Chief of Curve Lake First Nation

Chief Williams offered welcoming comments, and remarked on the importance of ensuring that the children and youth understand and are knowledgeable about our past. She acknowledged the Creator for the rain, and spoke of the important role of women, the water carriers, to speak for the water.

Laurie Carr, Chief of Hiawatha First Nation

Chief Carr provided information on the Hiawatha First Nation, whose members try to live the good way of life that was passed down by their ancestors. She wished delegates a successful AGA.

Dave Smith, Member of Provincial Parliament, Peterborough-Kawartha

Mr. Smith thanked delegates attending the AGA and acknowledged the celebration of Métis culture and heritage. He committed to speaking to his colleagues about ensuring that they refer to the MNO's "Citizens", rather than "Members", moving forward.

Melanie Omeniho, President, Les Femme Michif Otipemisiwak

President Omeniho noted her appreciation for the Métis Nation, and acknowledged the growth in the numbers attending the MNO's AGAs year over year. Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO) works with the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC) and is very active. A significant area of focus is on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), and ensuring that Métis women are considered in MMIWG and other important issues. She referred to the recent Cindy Gladue trial in which the man charged with her murder was found not guilty but is now facing retrial. LFMO received intervener status in that case. President Omeniho noted her support of the LFMO's partnership with MNOWC, and wished delegates a very fruitful meeting.

Clara Morin Dal Col, President, Métis Nation British Columbia

MNBC President Morin Dal Col expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Métis Voyageur Canoe ceremony the prior evening. This is a great time for the Métis in our Nation to be recognized and moving forward in housing, health, children and families, education and other priority areas. She encouraged delegates to not forget where we have been, and thanked the youth who are our present and our future for being in attendance. She wished the delegates a fruitful and productive AGA.

Clément Chartier, President, Métis National Council, QC

MNC President Chartier thanked the MNO for the invitation to share this moment in time, and thanked the Senator for the Opening Prayer. In the early fall of 1992, former MNO President Tony Belcourt and a number of people from the then Ontario Métis and Aboriginal Association (OMAA) met in Toronto, ON

to discuss the future of the Métis Nation. At that gathering, it was decided by the Métis to have a parting of the ways with OMAA. In May 1993, the Métis met in Hamilton, ON and began formalizing what is now the MNO. Although he has missed a few of the MNO's AGAs over the years, since 1997 he has attended, and has acknowledged the MNO's growth.

There have been a lot of growing pains in the Métis Nation generally and in the MNO. He noted that the AGA would consider resolutions that would generate debate, and encouraged delegates to be involved as the Métis Nation is one of the most democratic in how it elects its leaders and conducts its business.

Since the 2017 MNO AGA, the Métis Nation has had tremendous success with this Federal Government. With the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the Métis Nation is co-developing an Indigenous Languages Act, which there is hope to have introduced in the next several weeks. As well, in the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism (PBM) process there has been success through cooperative action of the Métis Nation and the Federal Government. Budget 2018 made a distinct allocation to the Métis Nation in excess of \$1.5 billion, which is a significant breakthrough. There has been commitment made to \$500 million for the Métis Nation over 10 years in housing, which is also significant. We are collectively working towards submissions for Budget 2019, including upcoming meetings at the Ministerial level to co-develop the Métis Nation asks.

President Chartier acknowledged that if it were not for the grassroots work being done, there would not be the ability to make progress at the provincial and national levels for the Métis Nation. He looked forward to delegates' further contributions in future.

Framed artwork by Métis artist Kelly Duquette was presented to each of the preceding speakers.

State of the Nation Address

Margaret Froh, President, Métis Nation of Ontario

President Froh acknowledged the Senator for the Opening Prayer, Veterans for the Colour Guard, and the PCMNO, Councils, Captains of the Hunt, and dignitaries for their participation in the Grand Entry. She also acknowledged the local Council and staff for their efforts and work to host the AGA.

The AGA's are about debate and decision-making, and priorities and principles to advance, protect and preserve our rights and recognition as Métis in Ontario. The Métis do not sit back and allow others to dictate who we are – we are a self-determining people. She spoke about the collective right of the Métis and the importance of a Métis-specific mandate. MNO's priorities are embedded in its Statement of Prime Purpose, which has guided the MNO's decision-making.

Over the last 25 years, the MNO has made many advances, and must acknowledge and respect its foundation that was built with grit, determination and Métis resiliency, and which has gotten us to where we are today. The MNO has learned a lot from its "teen years" and is now into its "mid-20's". It is a time to celebrate our foundation, and to look at areas needing reinforcement and repair so we can build up the MNO for the next 25 years and beyond.

MNO has made it to its 25th year because of its Citizens, and must reflect and pay respect to all of the elected leadership of the MNO at every level over the years, including MNO's founding President Tony Belcourt, and former MNO President Gary Lipinski. There is need to also acknowledge staff who

have committed themselves to the MNO and have brought support and strength to our communities and families.

The distinct culture and way of life of the Métis in Ontario did not start with the MNO, but comes from our Métis ancestors, and is part of our inherent rights as Indigenous peoples. The MNO is in a different place in its evolution as a Métis government. We have gone from fighting to be heard, to battles in the courts, to having Government-to-Government agreements with Canada and with Ontario. The intense will of the Métis to survive, persevere and grow, will ensure that the Métis Nation never dies.

MNO has advanced to this point by collectively working together, and by making principled decisions about who we are and whom we represent, as set out in the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose. President Froh acknowledged work occurring at the national, provincial and local levels, and noted her gratefulness to the LFMO to ensure that Métis voices are heard in the MMIWG work.

The MNO's relationship with the Métis National Council (MNC) is embedded in the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose, and through that the rights and recognition of the Métis Nation at the national level continues. She thanked national leadership for that work, and for the unprecedented progress at the national level. In April 2017, the Canada-Métis Nation Accord was signed, which sets out a new relationship and process for the Métis Nation to work with Canada on key priority areas. It was also significant that the Métis Nation was acknowledged in Budget 2018 with specific provisions and commitments over the next 10 years to support the Métis Nation.

MNO continues to be engaged in files at the national level, and participated in signing of Accords on Housing and Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET). While these investments are large and significant, the Métis Nation is still working with Canada to ensure that the investments reflect Métis population realities and result in measurable benefits for our families and communities. The focus for the MNO has always been on leading the way for specific priorities for the Métis in Ontario and ensuring the rights and interests of our communities are addressed.

The President referenced the signing of the Ontario-MNO-Canada Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation, and the MNO-Canada Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community signed December 11, 2017. The importance of having Métis government in Ontario recognized on a Government-to-Government basis was noted. This will take the MNO from a not-for-profit structure to a recognized, respected and fully resourced Indigenous Métis government, and onto a path of Constitution and law making that will allow us to solidify our foundation, repair where we need to and build for the future.

Under the Northwestern agreement, relating specifically to the Treaty 3 Half-Breed Adhesion, there is hope to establish a process to deal with outstanding Métis land claims. Much like *Powley* was a test case to advance recognition of Métis rights, the *Northwestern* was a test case for a process to deal with historical outstanding Métis grievances. These agreements are the result of more than 25 years of raising our Métis voices and fighting to be recognized and have outstanding grievances and claims addressed.

In May 2018, the MNO released the final report of its Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Governance, which met with Citizens in all of our Ontario Métis communities in 2017. She thanked the Commissioners for their work, and the Citizens for their participation. The report will be used to inform

the MNO's decision-making going forward. In the prior year, the MNO also launched the MNO Household Survey, and is now processing Citizens' responses, which will be used to support negotiations and to develop programs and services to meet the needs expressed by our Citizens.

In October 2017, the MNO initiated its Registry Review, which is not about initiating new rules for registration, but is based on enforcing MNO's existing bylaws and Registry Policy. The Review is not about questioning the commitment or heart of the people who have given so much to the MNO over the years, it is about who we are and what sets us apart as a Métis government from other associations that assume the title "Métis" in name only. It is also about strengthening Métis systems of government, and moving forward and strengthening the credibility of the MNO's Registry and Harvesting Card systems.

The Commission generated a "What we Heard" report, which included a series of recommendations including the Root Métis Ancestry project and a compilation of easily accessible resource materials to assist people in registering. In 2017, MNO announced the results of that project and a multi-year project to review in detail the historical research on Métis in Ontario. That joint process identified at least seven historic Métis communities in Ontario.

The President also referenced the Ontario-MNO Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting signed April 30, 2018, and spoke on the need to constantly keep aware about strengthening our MNO systems and foundations.

The Registry Review will result in a much stronger and responsive Registry that will be able to process files more promptly. It will be a state of the art Registry that will be a repository of historical data. Our existing systems were built to get us to where we are today and it is an impressive foundation to celebrate; however, there is need to do more.

The President acknowledged staff for their commitment and endless energy, and led the AGA in a round of applause in appreciation of the hard work of MNO's Chief Operating Officer, Chief Strategy Officer, and all MNO staff. MNO is an employer of choice and a destination for a great career and great summer job, which offers amazing opportunities for young people.

Delegates were referred to the MNO Annual Report, which puts forward an incredible face for the MNO. Every four years, when there is an election, change happens and is good, but that can also be challenging. There is need to continually strengthen our foundation and to empower our Métis people to continue the work.

In 1993, the Citizens established the MNO as the government for the Métis in Ontario. The MNO then created its Statement of Prime Purpose, the community charters, agreed to support the *Powley* case, and adopted the MNO Registry Policy. The growth of the MNO has been done through debate, disagreement and determination to make difficult decisions. It is now time to ask where we want to go in the next 25 years. There is an opportunity and we are going to seize it and set the table for our work over the next 25 years to be fully recognized as a government, that is also properly resourced.

The President noted that we have a responsibility and need to be relevant to our Citizens and our communities. We cannot forget that our environment is continuously under threat and how important it is to stand up and fight back. We have to be prepared to ask difficult questions and make difficult

decisions. We have an important agenda for the AGA, which is focused on where we go next. There will be opportunity to discuss and debate and make important decisions on behalf of our families and communities and future generations. This work comes with joys, celebrations and sacrifices and takes time away from our families and communities, and for this sacrifice she thanked the Citizens. We have great responsibility to get this work done, which is incredibly important to us all. Let us come together to celebrate our history and culture and do amazing work to move the MNO forward.

The delegates viewed a video recapping the past 25 Years of the MNO.

1. Establishment of Annual General Assembly Quorum

Vice Chair Cadeau reported that there were 256 registered delegates at the 25th MNO AGA as of noon on the first day, with quorum therefore being set at 128. It was noted that 171 affirmative votes would be required to approve any Special Resolutions.

2. Review and Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

Provided under Tab 3 of the agenda package: Draft Agenda of the 25th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly scheduled August 17-19, 2018.

It was MOVED (Garry Laframboise) and SECONDED (Joanne Young)

That the Agenda for the 25th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario scheduled August 17-19, 2018 be adopted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180817-01)

2.2 Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

Vice Chair Cadeau nominated the following individuals to the 25th MNO AGA Resolutions Committee, each of whom accepted the nomination: Ray Bergie, Kelly Duquette and Luke Thompson. Thomas Thompson nominated Shelley Burke, who consented to the nomination. Pauline Richardson nominated Alden Barty, who consented to the nomination.

The Vice Chair closed nominations.

It was MOVED (Marc Laurin) and SECONDED (Yvonne Jensen)

That the Resolutions Committee for the 25th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly be comprised of the following members: Alden Barty, Ray Bergie, Shelley Burke, Kelly Duquette, and Luke Thompson.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180817-02)

3. Adoption of Draft 2017 AGA Minutes

3.1 2017 AGA Minutes

Provided under Tab 7 of the agenda package:

- *Draft Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario, held August 19-21, 2017*
- *Draft Record of Resolutions of the 24th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario, held August 19-21, 2017.*

It was MOVED (Ernie Gatien) and SECONDED (Dale Xilon)

That the Minutes of the 24th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 19-21, 2017, be approved, as circulated.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180817-03)

3.2 Business Arising from 2017 AGA Minutes

Provided under Tab 7 of the agenda package: Chart titled MNO 2011 AGA resolutions, motions and action sheet update.

Delegates were invited to review the distributed material and were welcomed to raise related questions at any point during the AGA.

4. Financial Update

4.1 Update Yearly Audit Process

PCMNO Councilor Richardson, on behalf of the Forensic Audit Committee, commented on the status of the Deloitte Canada Forensic Audit on MNO elected executive compensation and expenses, senior staff salaries and expenses, and arrangements with vendors and legal firms. The PCMNO received preliminary findings in July 2018, absent senior staff and PCMNO Executive due to conflict. Forensic Audit final findings are pending and will be shared when received.

4.2 Treasurer's Update/Finance Report

PCMNO Secretary-Treasurer Pile announced that the MNO has achieved a surplus of approximately \$1.2 million, and commented on the need for strategic use of the surplus. Recommendations will be forthcoming on cash management, infrastructure investments, staff and political wages, honoraria policies, transition from secretariat to governance, risk mitigation, policies and procedures, and investments in housing, child and family services and training and education.

As the MNO continues to grow it is time to refine existing programs and services, maintain current employees, and to provide training to all staff and community councils to deliver quality services. MNO is very aware of the many issues raised by its Citizens and is trying to address these with an aggressive mandate, including completion of the Commission report, household survey, federal and provincial negotiations, and everyday operations of the MNO Secretariat. MNO received a clean audit opinion with a strong net asset value as compared to prior years.

4.2 Approval of 2017-2018 Audited Financial Statements

Provided on-table: Métis Nation of Ontario Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2018.

PCMNO Secretary-Treasurer Pile advised the PCMNO accepted the Financial Statements at its meeting held August 8, 2018.

Randy Tivy, Partner, Collins Barrow Ottawa, referred to the Independent Auditor's Report, which stated "In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the MNO Secretariat as at March 31, 2018 and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year ended March 31, 2018 in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit organizations."

Mr. Tivy led a review of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2018.

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Marilyn Hue)

That the 25th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly accept as presented the Métis Nation of Ontario Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2018.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180817-04)

(Dan Boulard, Jennifer Parkinson, Dan Rivers and Theresa Stenlund abstaining from the vote.)

Theresa Stenlund noted she abstained because of conflicting information reported on the financials over the past several months, and a pending forensic audit. Dan Boulard noted that he abstained because of the lack of a written report on the results of the forensic audit. Peter Rivers noted that he abstained for reasons previously stated. Jennifer Parkinson indicated she abstained given that the results of the forensic audit are pending.

4.3 Appointment of Auditor

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Pauline Richardson)

That the 25th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly appoint Collins Barrow Chartered Professional Accountants as the MNO's auditors for the 2018/19 fiscal year.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180817-05)

PCMNO Secretary-Treasurer Pile acknowledged regional councilors for their assistance with obtaining community council financials, and recognized community councils that provided financials in a timely manner. He noted that resource materials are being prepared to support community councils in this work. The MNO finance team was recognized for its care in the MNO's day-to-day financial operations, and assurance was offered that the MNO will be practical with its surplus, wise with its investments, and will maintain momentum going forward in the move to a prosperous future Métis self-government in Ontario.

Resolutions Committee Announcement

Resolutions Committee Chair Shelley Burke referred delegates to the materials provided under Tab 7 of the agenda package, and advised that Ordinary Resolutions (OR) would be accepted until 4:00 p.m. the following day by any of the five members of the Committee.

5. Advancing Economic Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency

5.1 Report of the Rights and Self-Government Commission

5.2 Highlights of the MNO Household Survey

5.3 Update on MNO Electoral Code Modernization

Jennifer St. Germain, Chief Strategy Officer, referred to a projected presentation titled "Rights, Recognition and Responsibility" and highlighted:

- Recognition of MNO founding meeting and members
- Advancing Métis Rights and Self-Government; the "What we Heard" report lays out the Commission's 19 recommendations
- Acknowledgement of Commissioners for their work in visiting Métis communities in Ontario
- MNO Household Survey on health, housing, education, employment, social justice and other

areas, which was launched in the summer of 2017 and had an overall response rate on the value sample of 44.1%

- Electoral Reform and modernization (both Parts A and B) to make the whole electoral process run smoother; further engagement will be required with communities and Citizens.

During ensuing discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered regarding:

- Data collected in the MNO Household Survey is governed by very strict confidentiality procedures; although one of the individuals involved no longer works with the MNO, the data remains with MNO and has proven to be invaluable in planning programs and services
- Note that the MNO Household Survey did not collect information on single mothers, which is a vital part of the information needed
- Importance of allowing the grassroots to raise their concerns
- The MNO gathered a lot of information on housing, but not necessarily transition housing
- Small surveys were also conducted at the 2017 AGA and during the Commission process; MNO will seek to validate what it has heard to date and to hear other concerns as well.

Consideration of this item resumed on Day Two, following consideration of Item 6.

6. Advancing Economic Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency

Provided under Tab 6 of the agenda package: Economic Development documents: MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law; and Policy on Local and Regional Allocations.

Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of this item, the webcast was discontinued and non-MNO Citizens were asked to depart the AGA. The Chair informed that the webcast would resume on Day Two – August 18, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (Rene Gravelle) and SECONDED (Pauline Richardson)

That the 25th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly be now adjourned to in-camera.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180818-06)

(Time: 2:55 p.m.)

DAY TWO – AUGUST 18, 2018

AGA RECONVENED

Chair Picotte reconvened the 25th MNO AGA on Day Two – August 18, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

VOLUNTEER OF THE AWARD

Michele-Elise Burnett, daughter of MNO founding member Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett, was present to award the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award, which is offered each year to a MNO Citizen who has made ongoing contributions to the Métis Nation and his/her own community. She provided the award to Peter Coture, President, MNO Great Lakes Métis Council.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Vice-Chair Cadeau confirmed quorum with a total of 378 delegates in attendance.

6. Advancing Economic Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Cont'd.

Consideration of Item 6 resumed at this point.

ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED (Rene Gravelle) and SECONDED (Hank Rowlinson)

That the 25th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly be now adjourned to in-camera.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180818-01)

(Time: 9:12 a.m.)

AGA RECONVENED

Chair Picotte reconvened the 25th MNO AGA on Day Two – August 18, 2018 at 9:48 a.m.

6. Advancing Economic Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Cont'd.

It was MOVED (Joanne Young) and SECONDED (Hank Rowlinson)

That the 25th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly approve the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) proceeding to implement the Contribution Agreement to Advance Economic Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency, including the Trust Indenture, Investment Policy, and Expenditure and Distribution Policy, in accordance with the presentations made to the General Assembly and with such amendments as are approved by PCMNO.

RESOLVED (AGA180818-02)

(194 delegates voting in the affirmative;
11 delegates voting in the negative; and 5 delegates abstaining)

5. Advancing Economic Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Cont'd.

5.4 Métis Rights Update for 2017/2018

Jason Madden, Partner, Pape Salter Teillet LLP (PST), acknowledged the stage that the Métis Nation is at in its history, and noted the need now to consider, “What does self-government look like?”, in order to advance and create governments that are sustainable, durable and that last for decades to come.

Mr. Madden referred to a series of projected presentations during which he highlighted information on slides titled:

- Recent Legal Cases and Ones to Watch
 - Mikisew Cree First Nation v. Canada
 - The Cindy Gladue Case
 - McCargar v. Métis Nation of Alberta
 - Manitoba Métis Federation v. Brian Pallister
 - R. v. Corneau et al
- Advancing Métis Rights
 - R. v. Powley: The Timeline
 - The Four Point Agreement

- Getting to an Independent Review
- Maps of Ontario indicating Métis communities
- Who are the “Root Ancestors”?
- Identification of Historic Communities (August 2017)
- Release of Root Ancestor Work (August 2017)
- Independent Review (January 2018) – An Independent Review of the Métis Nation of Ontario’s Harvester Card System (OSS_00645442)
- Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting (April 2018)
- Historic Métis Communities
- Advancing Métis Self Government
 - Historical Indian Treaties
 - Canada’s Six Stage Claims Process
 - Flow chart illustrating relationship of Métis Section Rights, Outstanding Métis Claims, and Jurisdiction for the Métis to Reconciliation with Métis through “just and lasting settlements”
- Recent Developments
 - Mandate letter from Prime Minister to Minister of Indigenous Affairs (Fall 2015)
 - Métis Nation of Ontario Act, 2016
 - Formal Negotiation Processes with Métis.

5.5 Federal and Provincial Rights Advances and Agreements

Provided under Tab 5 of the agenda package: Harvesting documents:

- *MNO/Ontario Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting*
- *Plainspeak document on MNO/Ontario Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting*
- *Independent Review of the Harvester Card System.*

Mr. Madden referred to a series of projected presentations, and highlighted information on slides titled:

- Purpose of the Framework Agreement:
 - Recognize the MNO as a Métis government
 - Establish processes to recognize Métis right and claims
 - Reach arrangements that support and enhance the well being of Métis communities in Ontario
- The Purpose of the Negotiation
- Métis Land Related Claims Processes
 - Framework Agreement, Section 4 – Other Reconciliation Related Processes
 - MNO-ON Agreement on Reconciliation with Northwestern Ontario Métis Community signed on December 11, 2017
 - Purpose of the Negotiations
 - The Treaty 3 Adhesion with the Halfbreeds and Rainy Lake and River
 - Georgian Bay Métis Recognition and Assertions
 - Robinson Huron Treaty Negotiations
- Negotiating Self Government
 - Métis Jurisdiction
 - Negotiating Self Government
 - The Métis are at a point of metamorphosis

- Constitution:
 - Who You Represent as a Government
 - Youth Values, Rights and Freedoms
 - How You Represent Your People
 - How You Interface with Others
- MNO Statement of Prime Purpose
- Métis Nation of Ontario Registry Timeline.

Ryan Shackleton, Director, Know History, referred to a projected presentation titled “The Registry Review Process MNO AGA 2018” and highlighted information on slides titled:

- PCMNO Resolution PC171022-08
- MNO Registry Policy
- Know History – Registrar
- Know History is not deciding who is Métis
- Incomplete Documentation
- Intentionally Incomplete
- The New MNO Registry Database.

Mr. Shackleton led an on screen review of the new MNO Registry Database, which connects all historic and contemporary information, houses all MNO historic data, includes documents, is secure, will improve workflow and efficiency, will include a research repository, and integrates all MNO systems.

Mr. Shackleton continued his presentation with a review of slides titled:

- Progress Statistics
- Assessment of Outcomes (to date): Complete, Missing Documents, Incomplete
- Complete or Missing Documents (74%) vs. Incomplete (26%) of the 8,819 total files
- Complete and Missing Documents files
- Comparison – MNO files from Ontario and Out of Province
- Next steps – Citizen receives letter, provides missing documents, file is re-evaluated, new letter is issued
- Timeline
- Verified Métis Family Lines.

During ensuing discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered regarding:

- Clarification that those accepted as Citizens through the Root Ancestors project require a connection to a Métis ancestor
- It is not necessary to connect to one of the seven historic Métis communities in Ontario or a verified Métis Root Ancestor family line to become a MNO Citizen
- The directive to Know History was to apply the MNO Registry Policy as it now stands
- Know History is collecting information on historic Métis communities and Citizens; the database is for all Métis and is not Ontario-specific; it recognizes the traditional Métis Nation homeland, which crosses the Canada/U.S. border as well
- The MNO database will be leading the way and has the potential to eventually be nationalized to connect all Métis governments

- Clarification that if a Citizen was verified years ago, it does not necessarily mean that they will be again; there is an ongoing process to verify that files meet the criteria established in the MNO bylaws and Registry Policy
- In future, the information and speed with which it can be worked with will result in a far more efficient Registry, which is completely searchable and linked to be a very responsive Registry
- Know History is alleviating the backlog of applications and looks forward to having the backlog fully eliminated within a matter of months
- Know History is following the current Registry Policy
- Clarification that a people cannot be derivative to another people, which is what the *Powley* case was about; it is well established that the Métis are a distinct, rights bearing people and that our rights co-exist within territories
- In collecting information about whether an individual meets the requirements for Citizenship, Know History is also identifying whether that individual connects into one of the historic communities
- There is no adoption provision in the MNO bylaws currently
- The idea of there being an ancestral connection comes from the Métis, not the courts; although in *Powley* the Ontario Métis Association (OMA) put forward the argument to eliminate ancestral connection, it was the Métis disagreed, which led to the MNC and its Governing Members adopting the Métis definition
- MNBC has addressed adoption but the other Governing Members have not; PCMNO had a paper developed to frame the issues and Community Councils were asked in the past to begin to dialogue around that.

Request for Action (AGA-RFA180819-01): It was requested that a process be created to engage MNO Citizens in discussion on the paper developed on the issue of Métis adoptions.

- Clarification that Citizen's children automatically inherit all Métis lines; a spouse does not inherit their spouses' line but does become linked
- Need to engage in a timely, expedited process to update the map of the MNO's regions
- Recommendation to contact the Registrar to discuss the specifics of individual files
- Clarification that the MNO is not opening itself to lawsuits; when the Registry process was not complete there were individuals registered, but it was by honest mistake; it is necessary for the Indigenous group that has the right to make the decisions on its citizenship, and the MNO has been following that due process
- Confirmation that the Registry Review is based on the 2010 Registry Policy
- Clarification that the verification policy in 2010 for people running for office was administrative and was not to confirm whether a person actually met the citizenship requirements; the MNO is now going through the verification process which is reason that some people have received letters that their file is incomplete
- The Riel quote in the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose is a declaration of where we come from; we declare ourselves to be Métis as distinct and have set out who the Métis are with our own history, culture and place we come from
- The MNO Statement of Prime Purpose references establishing a registry of Métis in Ontario
- The Registry is being built to be a database full of documents that trace peoples' lineage to communities in Ontario and across the Métis Nation Homeland, which individuals can

connect with and inherit the rights from

- Recognition that some people who do not have documentation have been living for generations as Métis – there needs to be some way to address these people in the policies
- Need to determine what is acceptable in terms of the evidence to support our assertions as Métis, recognizing that there are challenges in finding some required documentation
- Note that the activities we are doing, e.g. verifying lines, and putting in place a database, etc. will make it easier for people to prove their ancestry.

7. Special Business Resolutions

7.1 AGA Resolutions Committee

Shelley Burke, AGA Resolutions Committee Chair, informed that the Committee reviewed the 13 Special Resolutions (SR), and found that four are in compliance based on the Committee's best knowledge and materials provided. The Committee has also identified process improvements to put forward for the MNO's consideration to facilitate the process for committees in future.

Point of Order

A point of order was raised to remind delegates to conduct themselves respectfully.

7.2 Special Business Resolution #1 – Special Resolution on Verifying All MNO Citizens Are Métis Rights-Holders and Meet Current MNO Citizenship Requirements

Resolutions Committee Chair advised that SR#1 is in compliance to be brought to the floor and voted on.

In ensuing discussion on SR#1, comments were offered regarding:

- When the MNO first started it had no budget and 400+ applications for Citizenship
- Decision by MNO to incorporate a secretariat to administer its business and access funding
- The Ontario government's position at the time of MNO's creation – that Métis did not exist in Ontario and if the court said they did then they did not have rights
- Ontario's 2008 decision to enter into a Framework Agreement towards the MNO's full recognition
- Acknowledgement that 25 years ago there was no benefit to identifying as Métis
- Concern that many people who originally joined the MNO would no longer be Citizens if SR#1 is approved
- Recognition that many of the people who would be affected by SR#1 have been Captains of the Hunt, Community Council members, Veterans, and Volunteers of the Year
- Objection to using what *Powley* came up with as a definition of who is Métis
- Suggestion that there is need to correct the MNO Registry Policy to recognize all Citizens
- Recommendation to table SR#1
- Clarification that it is not possible to amend SR#1 given advance notification requirements.

The Chair informed that due to union issues the meeting venue could not continue to be used past 1:30 p.m. As such, the meeting would be adjourned and discussion would resume the next day.

ADJOURNMENT

The 25th MNO AGA held August 17-19, 2018 adjourned on Day Two – August 18, 2018, at 1:25 p.m.

DAY THREE – AUGUST 19, 2018

AGA RECONVENED

Chair Picotte reconvened the 25th MNO AGA on Day Three – August 19, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Vice-Chair Cadeau confirmed quorum with a total of 222 delegates in attendance.

7.2 Special Business Resolution #1 – Special Resolution on Verifying All MNO Citizens Are Métis Rights-Holders and Meet Current MNO Citizenship Requirements Cont'd.

In resumed discussion on SR#1, comments were offered regarding:

- Concern that some Community Councils would have few members remaining if this were to pass
- Prior assurance that Citizens would never lose their Citizenship cards
- Importance of pursuing national recognition of historic Métis communities in Ontario
- Need to identify the process for defining the Métis Nation Homeland boundaries
- Right of the MNO to define who its Citizens are
- Recognition of the MNO's bi-lateral and tri-lateral governance agreements through which it is negotiating self-governance
- Role of the MNO to negotiate on behalf of Métis in Ontario
- Recognition of the MNO's founding members who fought for its recognition and who may be negatively impacted if SR#1 is approved
- Note that there is no government legislation mandating the MNO to pass SR#1
- Support to revise the Registry Policy if necessary
- Concern that approval of SR#1 will mean the immediate removal of some MNO Citizens
- Recognition that the Métis have strong oral traditions
- Concern that colonial governments are inserting themselves into the MNO process and are breaking apart families and our strong Métis connections
- Clarification that MNO acknowledges Métis from other areas who now reside in Ontario
- Importance of the MNO demonstrating that it represents rights-bearing Métis in Ontario
- Importance of honouring our ancestors, healing intergenerational trauma, and not inflicting trauma anew on the people who are part of the MNO's community
- Note that SRs cannot be table in 2019 as it is within one year of an election
- Suggestion that SR#1 be put to referendum given that only a small percentage of the Citizenship is represented at the AGA
- Support for all MNO Citizens to have a voice in the definition of Métis in terms of how they are recognized in their community
- Concern that many Citizens are not able to produce documented proof of their Métis ancestry given that many people on the first Census were illiterate and did not sign petitions
- Suggestion to redefine "Métis" to include "recognized as Métis in their community"
- Clarification regarding date references in SR#1
- Importance of opposing SR#1 in respect of our trailblazers and traditional knowledge

holders

- Importance of moving forward as a Nation together rather than dividing the Citizens.

Point of Order

In response to a Point of Order, the Chair clarified that calling question does not automatically end discussion. It is a determination of the Chair as to whether there has been sufficient discussion to vote on the matter.

In the resumed discussion on SR#1, comments were offered regarding:

- Suggestion to grandfather in all current MNO Citizens
- Acknowledgment that it is the will of the AGA that governs the MNO
- Misinformation about many aspects of our rights and history as Métis
- Importance of moving forward issues by engaging in sometimes difficult conversations
- Concern that people are being misled to believe that land claim benefits and self-government for the Métis will include them
- Suggestion to do a Commission on MNO Citizenship
- Suggestion that the fee of \$250 for reconsideration of Citizenship applications be waived
- Importance of protecting the Métis identity, which is the most appropriated identity
- Decision to join the MNO because it is a Nation not an association or society
- Support for SR#1 to protect the inherent rights of Métis for future generations
- Opposition to SR#1 as it stands because it is too cold
- Recognition that we are distinct from other groups and organizations because of the limitations on who we define as Métis
- Importance of requiring some proof of Métis ancestry or we run the risk of being like other organizations that cannot claim to represent Métis
- Need for a conversation about recognizing the past and accepting and acknowledging those who have given so much and who are part of our community
- Original definition of Métis used by the MNO, which was the definition used by the Native Council of Canada: that Métis were people of Aboriginal ancestry who could demonstrate they had at least one grandparent who was an Aboriginal person
- Need to provide opportunity for Citizens to locate missing documentation
- Note that the MNO has the right to decide for ourselves who we are as a Nation
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' reference to the right of self-determination
- Importance of identifying of the historic Métis communities in Ontario
- Need to decide whether to be a Nation that decides who its Citizens are or to be influenced and controlled by what Government has decided about who our Citizens are
- Resolution passed at the MNO's 2010 AGA to never revoke Citizenship cards
- Importance of the Nation being rooted in love, acceptance, community and family
- View that Métis-ness is not dependent on regulations, but on relationships
- Need for more dialogue on the question of MNO Citizenship
- Support to do more research and to help those who cannot find their documentation
- Concern that the MNO Registry needs repair and that the Citizenship application process takes too long
- Importance of ensuring the accuracy of the Registry

- Recognition of the difficulty of securing appropriate documentation
- View that SR#1 should not pass, but that something has to be put in place to protect Métis rights and lands for future generations
- Recognition that the MNO Citizens did the work together and developed and accepted the Métis definition together following consultation in every community that was rooted in advancing our rights as Métis people
- Need to think about what redefining “Métis” might mean
- Note that being Métis is not about being mixed-raced, but is about having identity, language, culture and territory that is distinct from other Indigenous peoples
- Opportunity for the MNO to be a Nation that sees its right of self-government fulfilled
- Importance of having a Registry that is sound and defensible beyond reproach
- Purpose of the MNO to advance Métis rights, language, culture and traditions
- Need to fight to protect ourselves and our communities and to control our destiny
- Importance of honouring and showing gratitude to all of the individuals who have assisted the MNO since its inception in a way that is fair, provides time, and is respectful
- Increasing number of verified Métis family lines
- Challenges that are being addressed through the Registry Review process
- Ongoing efforts to build supports and help people to complete their files
- Importance of the integrity of our Registry as the foundation for our assertions
- Need to have discussions about what the Métis Nation will look like in 50 years
- Intent of SR#1 to start conversation in a fair, reasonable and respectful process
- Recognition that there may be benefits under *Daniels* for those who self-identify; however, self government is for nations of people
- Importance of more conversation and dialogue and a process to build our Constitution and reaffirm who we are as Métis in Ontario.

It was MOVED (Theresa Stenlund) and SECONDED (Mitch Case)

WHEREAS the MNO has initiated the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (the “Registry Review”) to determine how many MNO Citizens meet the current Citizenship requirements set out in the MNO Bylaws and are verified Métis rights-holders;

AND WHEREAS the MNO’s legitimacy, credibility and future recognition—as a Métis government—will be built on its representation of Métis rights-holders and rights-bearing Métis communities in Ontario as well as its objectively verifiable Citizenship registration system;

AND WHEREAS the 2018 MNO AGA wants to establish a fair and transparent two-year process to ensure all MNO Citizens are verified as Métis rights-holders and meet the current requirements for MNO Citizenship by July 31, 2020;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2018 MNO AGA directs the following:

1. That the following “Removal from the MNO Registry” provision be added as the new section 7 to the MNO Bylaws:
 7. All MNO Citizens must have documentation in their Citizenship file to demonstrate that they meet the current MNO requirements for Citizenship as set out in sections 4 and 5 of the MNO Bylaws and MNO Registry Policy by July 31, 2020. If, as

- determined by the MNO Registrar through the process set out below, a MNO Citizen has an incomplete Citizenship file on July 31, 2020, that individual will be removed from the MNO Registry and cease to be a MNO Citizen effective immediately.
- 7.1 On or before March 31, 2019, the MNO Registrar will write to all existing MNO Citizens at their last known mailing address, to make them aware as to whether their Citizenship file meets the above-noted requirements (i.e., whether their Citizenship file is “complete” or “incomplete”). The onus is on individual MNO Citizens to provide the MNO Registry with the necessary documentation to complete their Citizenship file and to keep their contact information with the MNO Registry up to date.
 - 7.2 Upon receiving a letter from the MNO Registrar identifying their MNO Citizenship file as incomplete, the individual shall have twelve (12) months to provide the outstanding documentation to the MNO Registry before their file is determined to be “officially incomplete.” If, at any time during this period, the MNO Citizen provides the necessary documentation to complete their Citizenship file, the MNO Registrar shall issue the Citizen a letter indicating their file is now complete.
 - 7.3 Prior to or after the twelve (12) month notice, a MNO Citizen with an incomplete Citizenship file may appeal the Registrar’s determination for reasons other than missing documentation. An applicant may appeal the Registrar’s decision by:
 - a. completing a Registry Review Appeal Form and submitting said form, along with materials to be considered as a part of the appeal, to the MNO Registry; and
 - b. including a payment of \$250.00 payable to the MNO for the administrative costs associated with the appeal, which will be returned to the MNO Citizen if their appeal is successful.
 - 7.4 Upon receipt of the required items set out in section 7.3, the Registrar shall forward the contents of the MNO Citizen’s Citizenship file and the appeal materials to an independent, qualified genealogist or consulting firm with experience in Métis genealogy for review and consideration of the appeal.
 - 7.5 The individual or firm identified above will review all of the appeal documents and the appellant’s Citizenship file based on the MNO Bylaws and Registry Policy in order to determine whether they will uphold or overturn the Registrar’s determination. A letter setting out the reasons for upholding or overturning the Registrar’s determination will be provided to the MNO and the appellant. This decision shall be final and binding on the parties. Best efforts will be made for the appeal will be completed within ninety (90) days of the materials being provided to the individual or firm.
 - 7.6 If an existing MNO Citizen has an appeal pending as of July 31, 2020, they will still be removed from the MNO Registry and cease to be a MNO Citizen as of that date, however, if their appeal is ultimately successful they will have their Citizenship reinstated on the date of the successful appeal decision and will not have to reapply for MNO Citizenship.
 - 7.7 Subject to meeting all MNO Citizenship application requirements that are in place, any individual who was removed from the MNO Registry and ceased to be a MNO Citizen as of July 31, 2020, may re-apply for MNO Citizenship.
2. That the following “Removal from the MNO Registry” provision be added as the new Section 7 to the MNO Bylaws:

- a. the MNO Citizen requests, in writing, to have their name removed from the MNO Registry; or
- b. the MNO Citizen is removed pursuant to the authorities and processes set out in the MNO Bylaws.

DEFEATED

(77 in favour; 147 opposed; 8 abstaining)

President Froh informed that the MNO is guided by its Statement of Prime Purpose, and will continue to work on its Métis rights specific agenda, and to make difficult decisions that are required together. The MNO remains a strong and proud Nation and honours our trailblazers and our founding members and all those individuals who are doing the work to carry the MNO into the future. We will continue to work to ensure that our foundation remains strong because it is clear that everyone wants to see the foundation strengthened and improved and for there to be more community engagement at the grassroots level.

Request for Action (AGA-RFA180819-01): It was requested that, with the defeat of Special Resolution #1, the PCMNO consider and report back on whether this affects the ability of individuals to run in elections regardless of whether their Citizenship has been verified.

7.3 Special Business Resolution #2

Although the Resolutions Committee Chair advised that SR#2 is in compliance and could be brought to the floor and voted on, the mover, Theresa Stenlund asked that it be tabled.

7.4 Special Business Resolution #3

Although the Resolutions Committee Chair advised that SR#3 is in compliance and could be brought to the floor and voted on, the mover, Theresa Stenlund asked that it be tabled.

7.5 Special Business Resolution #4

Although the Resolutions Committee Chair advised that SR#4 is in compliance and could be brought to the floor and voted on, the mover, Mitch Case asked that it be tabled.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Picotte confirmed quorum with a total of 201 delegates in attendance.

8. Updates

By consensus it was agreed to waive receipt of the reports from the MNO Senators, MNOWC, MNO Veterans' Council and the MNO Youth Council (MNOYC), and that written reports for each could be submitted in writing for inclusion in the next issue of the Métis Voyageur.

9. Non-Special Business Resolutions

Resolutions Committee Chair Burke advised that eight ORs had been accepted for consideration by the AGA. However, one OR would require a change to the Electoral Code and as such would have to be introduced as a SR, at a future AGA.

9.1 Ordinary Resolution #1

It was confirmed that the Mover and Secunder were present and as such, OR #1 could be

entertained.

It was MOVED (Mitch Case) and SECONDED (Alexandra Dusome)

WHEREAS a foundational principle of good governance is the right of Citizens to have their voices heard and meaningfully considered in decision-making that affects them; and

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is quickly moving towards self-government, which has involved beginning the process of Constitution building and negotiating numerous agreements, which affect MNO Citizens across the province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 25th MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) direct that there be a province-wide community engagement process on the issues related to economic development and self-sufficiency, self-government and other citizenship related issues as outlined in the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self Government Final Report and as discussed at the 2018 AGA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario and the MNO Secretariat seek out the necessary resources to implement the aforementioned engagement process; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that quarterly updates on these discussions be provided and a report provided to the 2019 MNO AGA.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180819-01)

9.2 Non-Special Business Resolution #2 – Meaningful Engagement of MNOYC on Youth Focused Programming

The Mover and Seconder of OR#2 were not present and as such, OR#2 could not be entertained.

9.3 Non-Special Business Resolution #3 – Provincial Anti-Racism, Lateral Violence and Equity Working Group

It was confirmed that the Mover and Seconder were present and as such, OR#3 could be entertained.

In ensuing discussion on OR#3, comments were offered regarding:

- Correspondence received from a Métis educator in Ontario on her ongoing struggles with discrimination and lateral violence as a Métis woman
- Personal experiences of being discriminated against by others, including other Indigenous peoples, for being Métis
- Need to be kind to one another even when we have disagreeing views and to stop the divide of western and Ontario Métis
- A local MP's commitment to share the correspondence with the Aboriginal Caucus
- Potential Government support to establish a Working Group
- Experience of MNOYC representatives subjected to lateral violence at an anti racism working group funded by Ontario's Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- Importance of safety and protecting the most vulnerable people in our community
- Need to support those who face lateral violence and discrimination in their workplaces and educational institutions

- Understanding that the MNO's education branch is doing some of this work
- Acceptance of a proposed friendly amendment to develop a process for establishing the Working Group
- Ontario's Respectful Workplace Act, which could be of interest to the Working Group.

It was MOVED (Amanda Pont-Shanks) and SECONDED (Derrick Pont)

WHEREAS Métis across the province live with discrimination, racism and lateral violence on a regular basis based on their Métis heritage; and

WHEREAS many Métis struggle with ignorance, lateral violence, and bias from other Indigenous organizations; and

WHEREAS there is lateral violence within our own Métis community, which causes a divide in the Nation; and

WHEREAS there is a demand for cultural competency training from entities such as, corporate sector, Medical Professionals, Local Government, Law Enforcement, Community Service Groups, and Small Businesses; and

WHEREAS Community Councils are volunteers and most Community Councils do not have the time, capacity or funding to deliver effective and consistent cultural competency training; and

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Statement of Prime Purpose states that the MNO will commit to "improve health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community";

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the MNO establishes a process to develop an Anti-Racism, lateral violence and Equity Working Group comprised of Métis citizens, Community Council Members, Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) members, and other MNO Interest Groups. With the support of the MNO public service, the Working Group will assist in developing Métis cultural competency training. This Working Group will train MNO Community Councils; PCMNO, other MNO interest groups, and MNO public service using the resources developed and will assist in province wide implementation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this Working Group will work with other Indigenous groups to improve relationships, tackle stereotypes and biases, and work together to promote the reduction of racism, ignorance, and lateral violence between Indigenous peoples. This Working Group will also tackle and solve concerns of lateral violence within our own Métis Nation to ensure that Citizens across the province feel welcome, safe and accepted within the MNO.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180819-02)

9.4 Non-Special Business Resolution #4 – Canadian Geographic and Métis in the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada

It was confirmed that the Mover and Seconder were present and as such, OR#4 could be entertained.

It was MOVED (Diane Kilby) and SECONDED (Jennifer Parkinson)

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Geographic Society (Canadian Geographic) has published a comprehensive Atlas titled the *“Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada”*, which is available online [see <https://indigenouspeoplesatlasofcanada.ca/>] or as a hard-copy publication; and

WHEREAS one booklet of this Atlas is dedicated to the Métis people of Canada; and

WHEREAS this segment was developed in consultation with the Métis National Council (MNC) of Canada and includes an introduction by MNC President, Clément Chartier; and

WHEREAS this Atlas puts forward and supports the erroneous contention that Métis identity is limited to Western Canada and *“parts”* of North-western Ontario only; and

WHEREAS this description of Métis ignores/dismisses and diminishes the people, the historic Métis communities, the culture and the self-governing structure of the Métis Nation of Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario be directed to work directly with Canadian Geographic to correct this glaring omission to include the proud Métis peoples of Ontario acknowledging our people, our history, our government and our communities.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180819-03)

9.5 Non-Special Business Resolution #5 – Ordinary Resolution on Women Representative Inclusion in AGA Grand Entry Canoe

It was confirmed that the Mover and Seconder were present and as such, OR#5 could be entertained.

It was MOVED (Suzanne Jackson) and SECONDED (Shirley Debassige)

WHEREAS the Voyageur Canoe is symbolic of the Métis Nation and it is an honour to have a designated seat in the canoe during the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) Grand Entry; and

WHEREAS honouring Women is part of our culture; and

WHEREAS the MNO is striving toward equitable representation of all our communities; and

WHEREAS the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario and all other Provincial Councils within the MNO structure, with the exception of the Métis Nation of Ontario Women’s Council (MNOWC), have a recurring seat in the canoe during the MNO AGA Grand Entry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Women’s representative from the hosting AGA Council or their MNOWC Regional Representative or their MNOWC designate chosen by the other MNOWC Regional Representatives, have a reserved seat in the Voyageur Canoe for its Grand Entry at all MNO AGAs.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180819-04)

9.6 Non-Special Business Resolution #6 – RE Moose Population

It was confirmed that the Mover and Seconder were present and as such, OR#6 could be entertained.

In discussion on OR#6, comments were offered regarding:

- Acknowledgement that the caribou have gone and there are no efforts underway to bring them back or to look after what is left; there is fear that this will also happen for moose
- The Métis hunt is a cultural event and Métis utilize all the parts of the animal; it is a concern that we will lose that cultural connection even if the moose go away for a few years
- Concern that the way in which wood is being harvested in northern Ontario is eliminating all cover and feed for the moose
- Clarification regarding MNO harvesting areas and harvester cards
- Suggestion to clarify reference in OR#6 to “low” and “lower than low” from the perspective of the MNO
- Concern regarding the significant impact of forestry practices on the Métis way of life
- Support for OR#6, which will inform work at the Captains of the Hunt level and at the policy development level with the MNRF.

It was MOVED (Brian Gouliquer) and SECONDED (Sandra Triskle)

WHEREAS the moose population is too low and not recovering well; and

WHEREAS the moose harvest is an important Métis cultural event (not a sport or hunting); and

WHEREAS the moose population has not or as been slow to recover in many Wildlife Management Units (WMUs); and

WHEREAS the Métis have lost their cultural connection to other species such as the caribou, buffalo, elk and others;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario write the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests to curtail the issuance of the non-resident moose hunting licenses in the WMUs where moose numbers are at a low or lower than low number, until the moose population rises above that number.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180819-05)

9.7 Non-Special Business Resolution #7

It was noted that OR#7 could not be entertained as it would require a change to the Electoral Code and as such would have to be introduced as a SR, at a future AGA.

9.8 Non-Special Business Resolution #8 – Culturally Relevant Sport, Recreation Sport, Recreation and Experiential Opportunities for Métis Peoples of All Ages

It was confirmed that the Mover and Seconder were present and as such, OR#8 could be entertained.

In the discussion on OR#8, comments were offered regarding:

- Funding available to see how camps affect youth and future generations
- Interest in funding to continue programming for youth and adults

- Recognition that it requires a lot of funding to compete at the higher levels as a varsity athlete and that many cannot afford it; this would enable a lot of athletes
- Support for OR#8, which is about supporting traditional activities and Métis way of life
- Recognition that many athletes email asking for support from the MNO
- Suggestion that future policies and procedures include possible funding for Métis athletes.

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

WHEREAS the Metis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Statement of Prime Purpose declares to, "...promote and foster a community development...[to] promote the improved health and wellness of the individual...[to] establish good relations and maintain our historic alliances with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals."; and

WHEREAS the MNO has put importance on supporting and funding cultural and heritage land-based and recreational programs including the Summer Youth Cultural Program, Youth Cultural Camps, and Canoe Expeditions in 2003, 2005, 2014 and 2017, programs that have had lasting positive impacts for the MNO by building awareness of the Metis people and culture in Ontario and empowering Metis participants involved; and

WHEREAS the Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario (ASWCO) "plans, delivers and supports dozens of programs, tournaments, workshops, and events for Indigenous youth across Ontario each year, including multi-sport, cultural and leadership camps, sport clinics, invitational, championships, the Team Ontario, and the North American Indigenous Games."; and

WHEREAS ASWCO has a mandate to support sport, recreation, wellness and cultural opportunities for First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples in Ontario; and

WHEREAS there is a high interest for continued cultural and heritage programming for Metis people of all ages that promote Métis pride and Way Of Life; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has allotted \$71.4 million over five years to support Indigenous history, heritage and the use of sport for social development;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the MNO Annual General Assembly 2018 directs the following:

1. That the MNO seek partnership with the ASWCO to support and develop culturally relevant Sport, Recreation and Experiential activities for Metis people of all ages across Ontario that promote and support Metis Way Of Life; and
2. That the MNO seek continuous funding from the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario that will provide immersive cultural experiences for Metis children, youth, adults and elders that reflect various skill levels and abilities.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180819-06)

9.9 Non-Special Business Resolution #9 – Canoe Expedition 2019

It was confirmed that the Mover and Seconder were present and as such, OR#9 could be entertained.

In discussion on OR#9, comments were offered regarding:

- Understanding of the hard work that goes into planning canoe expeditions
- Suggestion that shorter expeditions could be arranged, e.g. one week, or one month
- Importance of feeding our Métis culture, and heritage and having pride in who we are
- Interest to ensure that we are using our materials and resources for the benefit of all
- Interest in organizing expeditions for adults, senators and staff so everyone can access the Métis way of life and gain cultural knowledge and transferrable skills
- Recognition of the positive experiences of youth who participated in past expeditions.

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

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has invested substantially in equipment to outfit participants for canoe and camping related activities; including the purchase of two new 36 foot Montreal Canoe and hauling trailer, cargo trailer and everyday camping and cooking gear to outfit 25 or more participants; and

WHEREAS the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) as a governing body, MNO citizens and MNO staff would benefit from the opportunity that would be derived from the Canoe Expedition that would raise Metis cultural and historic awareness by educating the general public, visiting communities, and by obtaining media coverage; and

WHEREAS Canoe Expeditions relive and retrace the historic fur trade routes of the Voyageurs demonstrating Métis pride and Way Of Life as well as developing participants' Métis identity, self-reliance, endurance, healthy living habits, and many other transferable skills applicable to employment and life in our communities; and

WHEREAS in the past the MNO has put importance on supporting and funding four previous Canoe Expeditions including 2017's, which focused on skill and educational outcomes through the use of Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) program dollars to provide multiple outdoor and leadership certifications from Challenges Canada and college credits as part of an MOU with Confederation College; and

WHEREAS there is a high interest from community members and past canoe expedition members for the opportunity to participate in a canoe expedition and following the canoe expedition on social media;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the MNO Annual General Assembly 2018 direct the PCMNO and Secretariat to:

1. Seek funding in order to support a 2019, and annual, canoe expedition(s), of different duration, which includes employment skills and training opportunities such as certifications and college credit, thus promoting employability and transferable skills; and
2. Collaborate with Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario and any other interested parties in the organization of canoe expeditions for the purpose of financial support and labour that is involved with the planning and execution of canoe expeditions.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA180819-07)

ADJOURNMENT

The 25th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly adjourned at 11:47 a.m. to accommodate a meeting of the Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission.

RECONVENED

The 25th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly reconvened at 11:58 a.m.

10. Closing Remarks

PCMNO Regional Councilor Gatien invited delegates to attend next year's AGA, which it was his Region's pleasure to host in Historic Sault Ste. Marie, ON.

MNO President Froh acknowledged the importance of the discussions at this AGA, and that everyone cares deeply about the MNO. History is what binds us and gives us strength to move forward in the best interests of the MNO, while never waiving from our Statement of Prime Purpose.

The MNO is a Nation that never wanted to be a Secretariat but we have used the tools available to advance the fight for Métis rights and to carve out space for the Métis to be recognized as one of the Indigenous peoples of Canada with Section 35 *Powley* rights. There is still need for the MNO to deal with misconceptions and disrespect. We are not now, nor will we ever be an association claiming the name Métis in name only.

The President noted that there is much work to be done at the national level and so much more that will be done in every community. It will be necessary to engage on many topics, including the right of self-government. The MNO's Framework Agreements are charting the path forward in this work.

The President thanked delegates for their attendance at the 25th MNO AGA, and thanked staff, the Regional Councilor and community councils for their work to prepare and host the AGA.

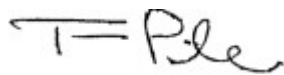
Chair Picotte led delegates in acknowledging the local Community Council, and presented the Council with a gift of appreciation.

CONCLUSION

The 25th MNO AGA held August 17-19, 2018, concluded on Day Three – August 19, 2018 at 12:11 p.m. PCMNO Executive Senator Poitras offered a Closing Prayer.

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This is a true and correct copy of the 25TH Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 17-19, 2018 and incorporates any and all amendments made at the time of adoption.



Tim Pile, Secretary-Treasurer



France Picotte, Chair

APPENDIX 1: List of Reference Materials

ADOPTED

APPENDIX 1: List of Reference Materials

The following is a complete list of materials provided in the Agenda package, distributed on-table, and distributed by individual delegates to the 25th MNO AGR:

Tab 1: Sponsor Page

Tab 2: Table of Contents

Tab 3: Administrative documents:

- 3.1 *Welcome Letter from the PCMNO*
- 3.2 *Agenda*
- 3.3 *Map of AGA Venues and Locations*

Tab 4: Governance documents:

- 4.1 *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*
- 4.2 *MNO Bylaws*
- 4.3 *MNO Electoral Code*
- 4.4 *MNO Secretariat Incorporation (1994)*
- 4.5 *MNO Secretariat Act, 2015*
- 4.6 *MNO/Canada/Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation*
- 4.7 *MNO/Canada Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Meting Community*
- 4.8 *The Path Forward – Progress Towards Reconciliation Between the MNO, Canada and Ontario*
- 4.9 *MNO/Ontario Framework Agreement*
- 4.10 *July 2018 Progress Report on Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP)*

Tab 5: Harvesting documents:

- 5.1 *MNO/Ontario Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting*
- 5.2 *Plainspeak document on MNO/Ontario Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting*
- 5.2 *Independent Review of the Harvester Card System*

Tab 6: Economic Development documents:

- 6.1 *MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law*
- 6.2 *Policy on Local and Regional Allocations*

Tab 7: Assembly Business documents:

- 7.1 *MNO AGA 2017 Draft Minutes*
- 7.2 *MNO AGA 2017 Record of Resolutions*
- 7.3 *2001-17 AGA Resolutions, Motions and Action Sheet Update*
- 7.4 *MNO Policy #2011 – 002 Process for Conducting Special Business Resolutions*
- 7.5 *Draft 2018 Special Business Resolutions*

Tab 8: MNO Cultural Commission

- 8.1 *MNO Cultural Commission 2017 Draft AGA Minutes*

On-table documents:

- *Backgrounder for Proposed Special Resolutions #1-3*
- *Paper titled “Métis Nation of Ontario Signs Two Historic Agreements – Advancing Reconciliation*
- *MNO Advancing Métis Rights and Self Government: What We Heard Report*
- *Pape Salter Teillet LLP paper titled “Alberta Court of Queen’s Bench Upholds Métis Nation of Alberta Bylaw Changes Dealing with Authorizations on Métis Rights and Claims – A Case Summary on McCargar v. Métis Nation of Alberta*
- *Pape Salter Teillet LLP memorandum dated July 20, 2018 regarding “Québec Court of Appeal Decision in Corneau v. Québec”*
- *Métis Nation of Ontario Annual Report 2017-18*
- *Métis Nation of Ontario Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2018.*

Distributed by individual delegates:

- *Paper titled “The Powley Decision has both Strengths and Limitations”*
- *Paper titled “Nation vs. Peoples”*