

# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**‘ADVANCING MÉTIS RIGHTS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT: WHAT WE HEARD’ THE FINAL REPORT OF THE MNO COMMISSION ON MÉTIS RIGHTS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT – May 25, 2018**

### **Background**

- The MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government (the “Commission”) was established to undertake province-wide consultations with MNO Citizens on MNO’s governance structures.
- On August 27, 2016, during her State of the Nation address at the 2016 MNO Annual General Assembly in North Bay, President Margaret Froh announced the formation of the Commission, and the Provisional Council of the MNO named and appointed seven MNO Citizens from across Ontario who would serve as Commissioners.
- The Commission was established to document, through a process of consultation and engagement with MNO Citizens from across the province, Métis community members’ perspectives on the following: MNO’s governance structures; Métis community, identity and culture; harvesting and self-government.
- From the end of February 2017 to the first week of June 2017, the Commission held 32 community engagement sessions across the province. Approximately 1400 people attended these sessions. The sessions included representatives from all of the MNO Chartered Community Councils, members of the Provisional Council of the MNO, Senators, Youth, Women’s Representatives, Veterans, and others.
- The findings of the Commission, as set out in this *What We Heard Report*, is anticipated to become an essential component that will help guide MNO’s broader collective effort to continue to advance Métis rights and self-government, including its work at the federal and provincial levels.

### **Summary of Recommendations**

The following is a summary of the recommendations that were identified in the report.

#### ***Métis Governance (p.13)***

- The MNO should develop a communication strategy with a specific emphasis on facilitating communications between the various components of the MNO’s governance structures and MNO staff.
- The MNO should undertake a review of the electoral process and provide recommendations for reform with a specific emphasis on ensuring all Citizens’ voices are being heard.



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- The MNO should prioritize the acquisition of core governance funding for Community Councils, the Métis Nation of Ontario Women’s Council, the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans’ Council, and the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council.
- The MNO should prioritize the acquisition of funding for the MNO’s registry while in the interim focusing on the development of policies that will promote a more efficient and streamlined application review process.
- The MNO should develop a registry communication strategy to increase the number of updates applicants receive throughout the application process.
- The MNO should prioritize the responsible acquisition of property and community spaces for Métis citizens.

### ***Métis Identity, Culture & Community (p.19)***

- The MNO should continue to work on the development of educational curricula with a particular focus on telling the story of Métis in Ontario.
- The MNO should continue to work with both the Federal and Provincial Governments to ensure that the Métis are being adequately consulted on the development of any and all cultural competency training materials (including materials used to train government employees or the public) that highlight Indigenous communities in Canada.
- The MNO should prioritize the acquisition of funding to increase MNO capacity to participate in curriculum discussions, development, and delivery.
- The MNO should create a Métis cultural strategy with a renewed focus on cultural symbols like the sash and the Métis flag. The cultural strategy should prioritize the documentation of historic Métis community narratives—with specific emphasis on Métis Women and two-spirited community members—and the development of education materials, which will empower Community Councils to tell their stories.
- The MNO should prioritize the acquisition of funding to engage in a cultural commission so our communities can continue the discussion about defining and understanding Métis culture – both historic and contemporary.
- The MNO should prioritize the creation of an MNO welcome kit that provides cultural resources to MNO Citizens and information on how they can get involved in MNO governance structures.

### ***Harvesting (p.25)***

- The MNO should prioritize the development of additional harvesting policies and procedures to address issues related to co-management, qualifications/training for Captains of the Hunt, potential enforcement mechanisms for non-compliance with harvesting policies, etc.

- While the Commission heard wide-spread agreement about the need to support mobility of harvesting rights, in order to ensure that any proposed mobility system is well-developed and consistent with the wants/needs of communities, the MNO should establish a commission to further explore this issue.
- The MNO should engage in a process of reviewing the harvesting map that underlies the 2004 MNO-MNR Harvesting Agreement.
- The MNO should prioritize improving education for all of our harvesters on harvesting issues and place a greater emphasis on supports for transferring harvesting knowledge to our younger citizens.
- The MNO should explore ways to improve the existing harvesting surveys in an effort to prioritize a more data-based approach to conservation.

### ***Métis Self Government/ Constitution Building (p.33)***

- The MNO should emphasize and rely upon the priorities identified through the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government in ongoing negotiations with the Governments of Ontario and Canada.
- The MNO should begin the process of developing an MNO Constitution. The first step in this process should be the development of a commission or engagement process with MNO Citizens that would focus on informing and designing a process for the development of the MNO's constitution.

### **Priorities Identified for Self-Government Negotiations (p. 33-37)**

#### ***Health and Social Programming (p.34)***

- The MNO should strengthen and extend health and social programming by establishing a non-insured benefits program that would provide health care services and programs and by securing funding for a variety of health and social programs and services including: elder care, dental care, orthotics, hearing devices, natural/traditional medicines, vision/eye care, prescriptions, etc.

#### ***Education and Training (p.35)***

- There is a need to secure additional funding for education and training in order to cover the full costs of education for students in all programs including undergraduate degrees, masters, PhDs, and professional degrees.
- Simplifying the application process for receiving education and training financial support and provide support for adult education programs (i.e. a lifelong learning model of funding supports that would provide support for upgrading certification and skills later in life).

### ***Housing (p.35)***

- The MNO should prioritize affordable housing for Métis communities, to improve access to affordable housing, increasing the number of long term care or community living facilities for Métis seniors, additional support for family care-providers in our Citizens' homes, and increased funds to renovate/repair/upgrade existing homes and to improve home accessibility.
- The MNO should prioritize targeted programming for Métis communities including: targeted programming and resources for veterans, targeted programming and resources for Métis seniors and more vulnerable populations (e.g. low income), targeted programming and resources for Métis Citizens living with a disability.

### ***Additional Priorities (p.36)***

- Addressing tax related matters
- The development of a Métis Citizenship Card that is a recognized form of Government Issued I.D.;
- Conducting further research into the issue of cross border travel for Métis (including any relevant history surrounding the Jay Treaty);
- Social justice, family welfare, and CAS issues;
- Support for LGBTQ2S Métis;
- Justice related programming (e.g. restorative justice programs);
- Environmental, natural resources, co-management, and conservation concerns;
- Economic and Business Development – specifically mechanisms for Crown resource revenue sharing agreements, a Métis business network, support for Métis businesses (especially small businesses), and employment/training programs for Métis;
- Strengthening relationships and exploring collaborative projects and partnerships between the MNO, MNC, and First Nations communities;
- Sustainable and long-term core governance funding for the MNO's operations, including Community Councils (sufficient enough to provide for paid positions for Community Councils), registry, etc.;
- Child care funding;
- A process for addressing Métis claims and treaty rights;
- The development of policies regarding adoptions and adopted people being embraced in the community.

**For a copy of the report or for more information please contact:**

**1-800-263-4889 or [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)**