

AGA2022

THE 29TH MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY • AUGUST 19-21, 2022

RECORD OF DECISIONS

Record of Decisions of the 29th Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) held August 19-21, 2022, in Toronto, Ontario.

Adoption of 2022 Annual General Assembly Agenda

It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young) and SECONDED (Peter Rivers)

That the Agenda for the 29th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly, scheduled August 19-21, 2022, be adopted with amendment to move the “Mayor’s Apology” from the 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on August 19, 2022.

RESOLVED (AGA220819-01)

(193 in favour; 4 opposed; 0 abstentions)

Adoption of the 2021 AGA Minutes

It was MOVED (Ron LePage) and SECONDED (Gary Laframboise)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held September 18-19, 2021, be adopted as presented.

RESOLVED (AGA220819-02)

(141 in favour; 6 opposed; 20 abstentions)

Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

It was announced by Vice-Chair Cadeau that, by a secret ballot vote, Madysen Campbell, Joshua Charpentier and Ronald LePage were duly appointed, by the Assembly to the 2022 MNO AGA Resolutions Committee.

Approval of 2021-2022 Audited Financial Statements

It was MOVED (Secretary-Treasurer Young) and SECONDED (Andy Dufrane)

That the 29th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly adopt the Métis Nation of Ontario Audited Financial Statements, for the year ended March 31, 2022, as presented.

RESOLVED (AGA220819-03)

(114 in favour; 33 opposed; 6 abstentions)

Appointment of Auditor

It was MOVED (Rene Gravelle) and SECONDED (Kathleen Anderson)

That the 29th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly appoint Baker Tilly, Ottawa LLP, as the Métis Nation of Ontario Auditor for 2022-2023.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA220819-04)

Ordinary Resolution: Advancing Métis Claims

It was MOVED (Tim Sinclair) and SECONDED (Sharon Cadeau)

WHEREAS beginning in the late 18th Century distinct Métis communities emerged in various regions surrounding the Upper Great Lakes as well as along the waterways and fur trade routes of what is now known as Ontario;

AND WHEREAS these Métis communities, along with other Métis communities that emerged in the historic North-West (collectively known as the “Métis Nation”), developed their own shared customs, traditions, and collective identities that are rooted in kinship, their special aboriginal relationship to the land, and a distinctive culture and way of life;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) was created to bring these Ontario Métis communities together, along with other Métis Nation citizens from western Canada who now live in Ontario, to form a Métis-specific government whose fundamental purpose is to advance Métis rights and self-government, as set out in MNO Statement of Prime Purpose;

AND WHEREAS since its creation the MNO has developed and evolved as a Métis government and actively pursued the recognition of Métis rights within Ontario, including, advancing the *R. v. Powley* as a test case on Métis rights all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada;

AND WHEREAS after years of struggle, advocacy and direction from the courts to negotiate, the MNO and Canada signed the *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement* (“MGRSA”) in June 2019, which expressly confirms that the Métis communities represented by the MNO hold the inherent right to self-government;

AND WHEREAS in the MGRSA the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations expressly committed to recommending Métis self-government implementation legislation to Parliament in order to provide a legislative base for the formal recognition of the MNO’s self-government in Canadian law;

AND WHEREAS in August 2021 the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations wrote to the MNO President to re-affirm the federal Crown’s commitment to implementing the MGRSA and ensure that all Métis governments Canada is negotiating with are treated fairly and equitably, including, ensuring the MGRSA is supplemented to include recognition and commitments provided to other Métis governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 MNO AGA directs that:

1. The MNO, including, the PCMNO, Community Councils and advisory bodies, be directed to lobby the Minister for Crown-Indigenous Relations to introduce into Parliament the implementation legislation promised in the MGRSA by the end of 2022, including, potentially supplementing the MGRSA to ensure the MNO has the same self-government recognition provided to all other Métis governments; and
2. The MNO, including, the PCMNO, Community Councils and advisory bodies, be directed to educate Ontario MPs as well as other relevant MPs on the importance of this implementation legislation in order to garner support for this legislation when it is introduced into Parliament.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA220820-01)

Ordinary Resolution: Next Steps in Registry Review Process

It was MOVED (Tim Sinclair) and SECONDED (Rene Gravelle)

WHEREAS:

- A. Distinct Métis communities emerged in various areas surrounding the Upper Great Lakes as well as along the waterways and fur trade routes of what is now known as Ontario as well as throughout the historic North-West prior to Canada becoming Canada;
- B. These Métis communities, along with other Métis communities that emerged in the historic North-West (collectively known as the “Métis Nation”), developed their own shared customs, traditions, and collective identities that are rooted in kinship, their special aboriginal relationship to the land, and a distinctive culture and way of life;
- C. Métis communities within Ontario have a long history of asserting their rights, interests, and claims through petitions, collective action, and maintaining their own self-government structures and institutions over successive generations;
- D. Prior to 1993, these Ontario Métis communities participated in pan-Aboriginal organizations at the provincial and national levels that led to the inclusion section 35 in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, including, the express inclusion of the Métis;
- E. Ontario Métis communities also participated in the development of the Métis Nation Accord in the early 1990s, which was advanced by the Métis National Council, as a part of the Charlottetown Accord constitutional process;
- F. The distinct aspirations, rights, and self-government of these Métis communities were often compromised and frustrated by their participation in pan-Aboriginal organizations because the agendas of these entities did not allow them to solely focus on Métis rights and issues;
- G. In 1993, the MNO was created to allow these Métis communities to come together, along with other Métis Nation citizens from western Canada who now live in Ontario to form a Métis-specific government whose fundamental purpose is to advance Métis rights and self-government, as outlined in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose;
- H. In order to secure government funding, the MNO was required to incorporate a not-for-profit corporation—i.e., the MNO Secretariat Inc.—to act as its legal and administrative arm until such time as it was able to negotiate the full recognition of its self-government on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis with Canada;
- I. As a part of its fundamental mandate to advance Métis rights in Ontario, the MNO identified *R. v. Powley* as a “test case” for Métis rights in Ontario and successfully supported and advanced this litigation all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada;
- J. In *R. v. Powley*, the MNO advanced the position that the identification of members of Métis communities is a decision to be made by those communities based on the following guidelines: (1) self-identification; (2) ancestral connection to the Métis community; and, (3) community acceptance, which was ultimately supported by the Supreme Court of Canada;
- K. Following the release of the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in *R. v. Powley*, the 2004 MNO Annual General Assembly (“MNO AGA”) adopted the national definition for citizenship

- within the Métis Nation, which changed the definition of “Métis” as set out in the MNO Bylaws;
- L. In 2009, in order to enhance the standardization, reliability, and credibility of the MNO Registry, the MNO adopted a Registry Policy that sets out the requirements and process for the registration of MNO citizens as authorized by section 5(c) of the MNO Bylaws;
 - M. In 2010, by way of an ordinary resolution, the MNO AGA directed that all existing MNO citizens be “grandfathered” at that time and that province-wide consultations be undertaken on the MNO Registry, which resulted in a “What We Heard” report that included a series of recommendations the MNO has acted on over that last decade;
 - N. In 2012, in order to advance Métis rights and the goal of negotiating a new harvesting agreement with Ontario that removed the 1250 cap on recognized MNO Harvester Cards, the MNO AGA directed that all MNO Harvester Cards with “incomplete” files be cancelled;
 - O. In 2014, the MNO AGA formally adopted the Registry Policy and directed that negotiations on Métis rights, including, Métis land related claims be advanced with Canada;
 - P. In 2015, a new federal government was elected that committed to advancing Métis rights and self-government with the MNO and other Métis Nation governments;
 - Q. In October 2017, in order to advance the MNO’s negotiations with Canada, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) initiated a Registry Review to:
 - i. assess the “completeness” of all citizenship files based on the MNO’s current definition of Métis and the requirements of the MNO Bylaws and Registry Policy;
 - ii. provide the MNO with a clear understanding of “who” it represents for the purposes of self-government negotiations and Métis rights claims as well as the number of its citizenship who descend from Ontario Métis communities or other Métis communities in the Métis Nation Homeland from Ontario westward; and
 - iii. ensure that MNO citizens who hold elected leadership roles and represent Métis communities with respect to Métis rights, have completed citizenship files and are Métis rights-holders themselves;
 - R. In May 2021, the Registry Review was completed and the PCMNO directed that:
 - i. the final report of the Registry Review (“Registry Review Final Report”) be publicly released, which confirmed that the overwhelming majority of MNO citizens (i.e., 77%) had or could have “Complete” citizenship files (i.e., 18,476 citizens) and that 5,402 citizens had “Incomplete” files;
 - ii. the MNO undertake province-wide consultations with all citizens on the Registry Review Final Report and develop and a “What We Heard” report based on those consultations, including, consideration of next steps such as holding a province-wide vote and/or special assembly on these issues;
 - S. Between June 2021 and May 2022, a province-wide consultation process was undertaken that allowed all MNO citizens to participate in virtual town halls and information sessions as well as an online questionnaire;
 - T. In July 2022, the PCMNO was provided a draft of the “What We Heard” report from these year-long consultations (“**Registry Review Consultation Report**”) and directed that:

- i. the Registry Review Consultation Report be publicly released; and
- ii. citizens be made aware that—as of July 1, 2022—the MNO now has 29,528 citizens with 23,011 (78%) citizens having “Complete” files; 1,140 (4%) citizens having files that are “Missing Documentation”; 5,321 (18%) citizens having “Incomplete” files; and, 56 citizenship files (less than 1%) being currently reviewed/assessed; and
- iii. this issue be brought to the 2022 MNO AGA for direction with respect to next steps.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 MNO AGA:

1. Adopts the Registry Review Consultation Report “in-principle” and directs the MNO to undertake online information sessions on this report with interested MNO citizens in the early Fall 2022 so that the issues in it are fully explained, discussed, and understood;
2. Directs the MNO to organize and hold a province-wide referendum with ballot box, online and telephone voting opportunities in the Fall/Winter of 2022 so all existing citizens have an opportunity to make their views known on the following question:

Referendum Question: Should all existing members/citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the MNO Secretariat, whose files do not meet the current requirements for citizenship as set out in the MNO Bylaws and Registry Policy, be removed as members/citizens?

Answer Options: “Yes” or “No”.

3. Directs the PCMNO to call a special General Assembly in late 2022 or early 2023 to amend the MNO Bylaws, if a majority of those who voted in the referendum provide direction to remove members/citizens with incomplete files from the MNO Registry;
4. Directs the PCMNO to develop a strategy to ensure that the democratic and self- government will of the MNO flowing from the above-noted referendum is respected, instead of the MNO Secretariat’s current corporate structure being potentially used to undermine the advancement of Métis rights and self-determination.

RESOLVED (AGA220820-02)

(188 in favour; 29 opposed; 6 abstentions)

Special Business Resolution: #22-AGA-04: MNO Policy #2022-002 Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services

It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young) and SECONDED (Mitch Case)

WHEREAS the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) passed resolution PC210528-09 directing the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) administration to, among other things, undertake province-wide consultations with all citizens on the final report related to the MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (“Registry Review”) with a view to preparing and publicly releasing a “What We Heard Report” based on those consultations;

AND WHEREAS the province-wide consultation process took place between June 2021 and May 2022, and consisted of seven (7) virtual all-citizen town halls, one (1) virtual MNO leadership town hall, an online feedback portal, and an in-person MNO Leadership Rendezvous session;

AND WHEREAS in response to preliminary feedback received from citizens during the consultations, the PCMNO approved MNO Policy #2021-001: Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services, which took effect on April 1, 2022;

AND WHEREAS MNO Policy #2021-001: Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services provides that it “shall be brought to the MNO AGA for its consideration and potential adoption”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 MNO AGA:

1. adopts *MNO Policy #2021-001: Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services*, which is attached at Appendix A to this resolution; and
2. directs that the sentence in section 8 of the policy stating “This Policy shall be brought to the MNO AGA for its consideration and potential adoption” be amended to read as follows:

“This Policy was adopted and amended by the 2022 MNO AGA.”

RESOLVED (AGA220820-03)

(185 in favour; 17 opposed; 2 abstentions)

Special Business Resolution: #22-AGA-05: On MNO Policy #2022-002 Verification of MNO Citizenship File Status to Other Governments and Third-Party Institutions

It was MOVED (Sharon Cadeau) and SECONDED (Mitch Case)

WHEREAS the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) passed resolution PC210528-09 directing the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) administration to, among other things, undertake province-wide consultations with all citizens on the final report related to the MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (“Registry Review”) with a view to preparing and publicly releasing a “What We Heard Report” based on those consultations;

AND WHEREAS the province-wide consultation process took place between June 2021 and May 2022, and consisted of seven (7) virtual all-citizen town halls, one (1) virtual MNO leadership town hall, an online feedback portal, and an in-person MNO Leadership Rendezvous session;

AND WHEREAS in response to preliminary feedback received from citizens during those consultations, the PCMNO adopted MNO Policy #2022-002: Verification of MNO Citizenship File Status to Other Governments and Third Party Institutions on March 27, 2022;

AND WHEREAS MNO Policy #2022-002: Verification of MNO Citizenship File Status to Other Governments and Third Party Institutions provides that it “shall be brought to the MNO AGA for its consideration and potential adoption”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 MNO AGA:

1. adopts MNO Policy #2022-002: Verification of MNO Citizenship File Status to Other Governments and Third Party Institutions, which is attached at Appendix A to this resolution; and

- directs that the sentence in section 8 of the policy stating “This Policy shall be brought to the MNO AGA for its consideration and potential adoption” be amended to read as follows:

“This Policy was adopted and amended by the 2022 MNO AGA.”

RESOLVED (AGA220820-04)

(184 in favour; 18 opposed; 8 abstentions)

Special Business Resolution #22-AGA-06: On Virtual Attendance and Voting at General Assembly Meetings

It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young) and SECONDED (Sharon Cadeau)

WHEREAS the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) confirm that the MNO shall hold a General Assembly of citizens annually (known as the Annual General Assembly or “AGA”) and may hold other General Assemblies of citizens that the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) shall call and provide notice in relation to;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Bylaws have historically been interpreted as only allowing in-person attendees at a General Assembly to be considered “present” and vote;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Bylaws allow PCMNO councillors to be deemed “present” at a PCMNO meeting even if they are not physically in attendance at said meeting;

26. A councilor may participate in a meeting of the council or of a committee of the council by communication facilities that permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other, and a councilor participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.

AND WHEREAS Ontario’s *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, which the MNO currently relies upon to provide the MNO Secretariat legal status and capacity until the MNO reaches a self-government treaty with Canada, provides that meetings may be held by “telephonic or electronic means” and that a member who votes through those means or “establishes a communications link to the meeting” are deemed to be “present” at the meeting;

AND WHEREAS because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the MNO has increasingly developed and acquired experience in hosting virtual AGAs and other province-wide meetings, town halls, and other events virtually; however, it restricted voting during the 2020 and 2021 virtual AGAs to only essential business matters so that it could familiarize itself with and address technical challenges related to certain online voting platforms;

AND WHEREAS citizens who may continue to not be able to physically travel to an AGA or General Assembly have indicated a strong interest in being able to continue to participate in these important MNO meetings as well as vote as a part of these meetings;

AND WHEREAS the MNO has a strong interest in ensuring that as many of its citizens as possible continue to participate within its democratic self-government structures and institutions, including, the AGA and other General Assemblies, subject to having the technology in place that allows virtual and/or hybrid meetings to be properly and efficiently conducted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 MNO AGA resolves that:

1. The following provisions shall be added as section 51 of the MNO Bylaws:

(c) A citizen may participate in a meeting of the General Assembly by communication facilities that permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other and vote through an effective, efficient, and verifiable technological means, and a citizen participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting. In order to ensure technological issues do not hinder or invalidate the conduct of a General Assembly, the quorum requirements set out in (b) above only include the in-person attendees at the General Assembly on its first day, and the in-person meeting shall be able to continue, at any time, without the participation of any or all virtual participants. No technological challenges related to virtual participation can invalidate the conduct of an in-person General Assembly in any way.

(d) As a part of the notice requirements for a General Assembly, the PCMNO shall prescribe the requirements for virtual participation and voting in a General Assembly, including, but not limited to: registration requirements, participation obligations, technological requirements, etc. For greater certainty, unlike in-person attendance, virtual participation in a General Assembly is not an absolute right of citizens and may be limited by the terms set out in the notice issued for a given meeting or technological difficulties that may occur during the conduct of said meeting.

2. Section 67(k) of the MNO Bylaws be amended to now read as follows:

(k) "Special Resolution" means a resolution passed at a General Assembly, the subject of which is considered a fundamental change and which requires the **meeting's quorum requirements are met and that** at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the eligible voters **in relation to said resolution vote in favour of it. For example, if 100 eligible voters vote on a special resolution, 67 (i.e., "two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast") must vote in favour of it in order for the special resolution to be carried.**

RESOLVED (AGA220820-05)

(157 in favour; 48 opposed; 6 abstentions)

Special Business Resolution #22-AGA-07: Traditional Harvesting Territories Map in MNO Registry Policy

It was MOVED (Sharon Cadeau) and SECONDED (Jo Anne Young)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario ("MNO") Registry Policy has been in place as an interim policy since 2009, and was formally adopted (2014) and subsequently amended (2015 and 2019) by special resolutions of the MNO Annual General Assembly ("AGA");

AND WHEREAS the MNO Registry Policy, along with other MNO communication materials and/or policies, contain an outdated map of the MNO's traditional harvesting territories ("THT") that does not align with the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting that was signed with Ontario in 2018 ("2018 Harvesting Agreement");

AND WHEREAS Article 60 of the MNO Bylaws confirms that "MNO policies previously adopted by the General Assembly may only be repealed or amended by Special Resolution" of the AGA;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 MNO AGA resolves that:

1. The map at Appendix A of the MNO Registry Policy be replaced with the map included in the 2018 Harvesting Agreement as set out below and that all other related MNO communications materials and/or policies be similarly updated.



DEFEATED
(134 in favour; 51 opposed; 9 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution: Process to Deal with Outstanding Métis Claims Against the Federal Government

It was MOVED (Mitch Case) and SECONDED (Jordyn Playne)

WHEREAS Canada's historic relationships with Indigenous peoples have been steeped in colonialism, and successive governments have failed to acknowledge and respect the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples, including their rights in relation to land, their distinct governments, their customary laws and traditions, as well as their unique cultures;

AND WHEREAS in the mid to late 18th century, the Métis Nation emerged as a distinct Indigenous people whose Homelands stretch from the lakes and rivers of Ontario; cross the southern plains and the prairies, traverse the mountains into British Columbia and into the Northwest Territories, and includes the hills and valleys of the north-central American States;

AND WHEREAS within what is now Ontario distinct, inter-related and overlapping Métis communities emerged in various regions surrounding the Upper Great Lakes as well as along the waterways and fur trade routes of what is now known as Ontario prior to the Crown effecting legal and political control in those regions;

AND WHEREAS these historic Métis communities developed their own shared customs, traditions, and collective identities that are rooted in kinship, their special aboriginal relationship to the land and a distinctive culture and way of life that persists to the present day;

AND WHEREAS section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, states that “the existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal people of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed” and “the ‘aboriginal peoples of Canada’ includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples”;

AND WHEREAS the MNO was created to represent these Métis communities within Ontario as well as to advocate on behalf of its citizens who are the descendants of these historic Métis communities as well as citizens of the Métis Nation from other parts of the Métis Nation Homeland who now live in Ontario with respect to collectively-held rights, interests, and outstanding claims protected by sections 25 and 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*,

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose gives the MNO the responsibility of standing up for and defending the rights of the Métis communities the MNO represents and also respects the authority of these Métis communities to represent themselves within the MNO's overall self-government;

AND WHEREAS there are outstanding Métis claims against the Crown within Ontario that have not been addressed based on the following historical facts, among others:

- The 1840 Petition of the Half-Breeds of Penetanguishene calling on the Crown to recognize them as they did other Half-Breeds in what would become Ontario. In direct response to this Petition, the Crown created and subsequently enforced a policy entitled “The Mode of Excluding Half breeds from Receiving Presents,” which denied this Métis population the benefits to which they were entitled and led to the Crown failing to address their pre-existing rights as Métis;
- The promises made to the Métis at Sault Ste. Marie that they were to receive “free and full possession” of their lands at Sault Ste. Marie. This promise was subsequently defeated by a scheme to force Métis families to purchase their own lands in a way that was unfeasible in their economic circumstance. The 1850 Petition of the Half-Breeds at Sault Ste. Marie and the supporting petition from the local Anishinaabek Chiefs makes clear that both the Métis s and the Anishinaabek expected and demanded that the Métis land rights would be respected.
- The 1875 Adhesion to Treaty 3 with the “Halfbreeds of Rainy Lake and River” that was to allow for this Métis community to secure reserve lands and the benefits from Treaty 3 as Métis, not as Indians. The Crown later implemented an approach that denied the Métis descendants the benefits of the Adhesion as a distinct Métis collective, not as an *Indian Act* Band.
- The 1905 Petition of Half-Breeds of Moose Factory seeking a scrip process such as had been offered to Métis on the prairies. The Crown's delays and jurisdictional buck passing led to the rights and lands of these Métis never being addressed.
- The 1968 burning of the Métis village at Agawa Bay by Crown governments in order to make way for Lake Superior Provincial Park;

AND WHEREAS the MNO also represents citizens who are the descendants of the beneficiaries of s. 31 of the *Manitoba Act, 1870* as well as Canada's fraudulent Métis scrip system;

AND WHEREAS the outstanding claims have been repeatedly raised by these Métis communities in Ontario, including, through pan-Aboriginal organizations they were previously a part of in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s and as a part of Canada's constitutional process;

AND WHEREAS because of the complete lack of response to Ontario Métis demands to deal with Métis rights and claims the MNO turned to the courts in the 1990s to finally ensure these issues could no longer be ignored;

AND WHEREAS in 2003, after a decade of litigation success within Ontario, the Supreme Court of Canada in *R. v. Powley* (“Powley”) held that “the inclusion of the Métis in section 35 represents Canada’s commitment to recognize and value the distinctive Métis cultures, which grew up in areas not yet open to colonization, and which the framers of the *Constitution Act, 1982* recognized can only survive if the Métis are protected along with other aboriginal communities” and that “section 35 requires that we recognize and protect those customs and traditions that were historically important features of Métis communities”;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada concluded that “the Métis community in and around Sault Ste. Marie have an aboriginal right to hunt for food under s. 35(1)” and direct governments to negotiate with Métis to address the promise of Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

AND WHEREAS since the release of Powley the Supreme Court of Canada has further addressed the need for the Crown to finally deal with Métis rights, interests and claims in cases such as *Cunningham v. Alberta*, *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada* and *Daniels v. Canada*;

AND WHEREAS the Senate Standing Committee on Indigenous Issues found in 2013 that “reconciliation (with Métis groups] is necessary in order to provide a solid foundation for present and future generations of Métis in Canada”;

AND WHEREAS in July 2014, the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Issues released his report on the “Situation of Indigenous Peoples In Canada” and in that report states “the Government does not appear to have a coherent process or policy in place to address the land and compensation claims of the Métis people”. The Report specifically recommended that: “Canada should take active measures to develop a procedure for addressing outstanding Métis land claims, to avoid having to litigate cases individually, and enter into negotiations with Métis representatives to reach agreements towards this end”.

AND WHEREAS the 2015 Eyford Report on the Federal Claims Policy specifically noted the exclusion of the Metis from Federal Processes and called for Canada to “develop a reconciliation process to support the exercise of Métis section 35(1) rights and to reconcile their interests”;

AND WHEREAS the 2016 Isaac Report on Metis Rights called on Canada to “... either amend its existing Comprehensive Land Claims and Specific Claims Policies, or develop a new policy, that expressly addresses Métis Section 35 rights claims and related issues, and that the basis for such amended policies or a new policy be founded on the legal principles of reconciliation and the honour of the Crown”. It is also recommended that Canada should work with the appropriate provinces and territories to develop a joint process by which to address unresolved Métis section 35 rights claims and related issues;

AND WHEREAS in April 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario, as a Governing Member of the Métis National Council, entered into the “Canada- Métis Nation Accord” which established a political relationship between our Métis Governments and the Canadian State, and included in its goals and objectives the following;

- 1.1.3 Advance reconciliation of the rights, claims, interests and aspirations of the Métis Nation and those of all Canadians;
- 1.1.4 End the legacy of colonialism and colonial attitudes wherever they may remain in federal legislation, policies and practices;

- 1.1.5 Improve socio-economic conditions of Métis and their access to social and economic programs and services that address their needs;
- 1.1.6 Explore and support ways to address the historic and continuing impacts of unresolved claims and grievances of the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS in 2017 Canada entered into a “Framework Agreement” with the Métis Nation of Ontario which included among its objectives the following support for Ontario Métis Claims and rights related issues;

AND WHEREAS in 2017 Canada entered into a Framework Agreement with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community. Under the Agreement, Canada and the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community were to engage in negotiations that foster an open exchange of ideas through respectful dialogue and frank discussion to arrive at a shared solution to resolve the outstanding claims of this Métis community;

AND WHEREAS in 2019 Canada entered into Metis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreements with the Métis Nation of Ontario, Métis Nation -Saskatchewan and Métis Nation of Alberta all of which recognize the need to negotiate to reach just and lasting settlements for outstanding Métis claims;

AND WHEREAS in 2019 the Federal Government began discussions with the Métis National Council and its Governing Members on a potential Métis Claims Policy, and the Métis Nation of Ontario made significant recommendations in our November 8, 2019 policy paper on Métis Claims;

AND WHEREAS on October 21st, 2021, the 171st anniversary of the submission of the 1850 Métis petition and the supporting Anishinaabek Petition to the Crown, the leadership of the Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community, and the President of the Métis Nation of Ontario wrote a joint letter to Canada calling for a formal process to resolve this long outstanding issue;

AND WHEREAS Canada formally endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2016, and formally adopted a Bill to entrench UNDRIP into Canadian Law in June of 2021, and UNDRIP specifically recognizes the rights of Indigenous peoples related to historical wrongs namely in sections 10, 25-28;

AND WHEREAS the aforementioned list of Crown inaction dating back for nearly two centuries is a clear pattern of neglect and indifference aimed at defeating all promises made to the Métis and is not only a shameful part of the history of Canada, but is exacerbated by the fact that there continues to be no process at the federal level to address Métis claims;

AND WHEREAS the Métis continue to be deliberately excluded from the federal claims policies and processes available to Inuit and First Nations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this 29th General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario calls on Canada to live up to its constitutional obligations to Métis communities regarding historic claims and grievances;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada be requested to reply, in writing, outlining their proposed timeline for the establishment of a Métis claims process or to reply, in writing explaining their rationale for their failure to meet the basic expectations created by Section 35 (1) and by Bill C-15, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PCMNO develop a working group on Métis Claims issues and develop and seek funding for the following strategies:

- A Government relations strategy to educate federal elected and bureaucratic officials of all Federal Parties on the history of Métis claims in Ontario and the need for federal policy on this issue;
- A public relations strategy to raise awareness of Canadians on the history of Métis Claims and the failure of Government to address these issues, with the view of enlisting support from the general public including educational institutions, unions, churches, municipalities, and all levels of civil society;
- A research strategy to prepare the necessary historic and legal research to support negotiations, and if no negotiations process is made available, to prepare for legal action to force Canada to live up to its most basic constitutional obligations;
- To appeal to the United Nations (“UN”) for support in forcing Canada to live up to its own constitutional obligations and previous calls from the UN to create processes for Métis Claims;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that President Froh, in her capacity as a member of the Métis National Council Board of Governors bring the issue of the need for a Métis Claims Process to the Board of Governors for immediate discussion on the development of a coordinated strategy on the issue of a federal Métis claims process;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MNO implement a whole of government approach to rigorously advocate for the implementation of a federal Métis claims policy to address long ignored historic claims and grievances.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-01)

(170 in favour; 2 opposed; 2 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution: Council Charter – Two-Spirit/LGBTQ+ Council

WHEREAS Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ Métis people contribute greatly to our Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ Métis people have historically been valued for their distinct responsibilities and roles within our communities and have had these roles devalued and diminished through the process of colonization;

AND WHEREAS various levels of Métis governments have identified Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ people as a "respected community within a community" and identify Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ rights as a high priority;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario's Statement of Prime Purpose indicates that the MNO will commit to "improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community";

AND WHEREAS the Two-Spirit/LGBTQ+ Working Group, established in 2016, has gathered extensive input from the Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ community in relation to appropriate governing structures;

AND WHEREAS the need has been expressed for a formally recognized Métis Nation of Ontario Two-Spirit/LGBTQ+ Council with regional representation;

AND WHEREAS a Two-Spirit/LGBTQ+ Council would serve a critical role in supporting, among other things, the unique cultural, spiritual, health and social needs of Two-Spirit/LGBTQ+ people within the MNO;

AND WHEREAS Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ people continue to face discrimination, prejudice, and lack of access to informed services and thus remain at higher risk of serious mental health challenges and suicide;

AND WHEREAS many Métis citizens actively practice allyship by reclaiming the Métis tradition of creating space for Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ within cultural, political and social contexts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario work with the Two-Spirit working group to develop and implement a Council Charter to work towards the creation of a Two-Spirit/LGBTQ+ Council.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-02)

(153 in favour; 17 opposed; 9 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution: Investigating the Possibility of Compensating MNO Employees with a Living Wage

It was MOVED (Evan Accettola) and SECONDED (Jordyn Playne)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario has over 250 hardworking and dedicated employees;

AND WHEREAS, as an employer, the Métis Nation of Ontario is morally responsible for caring for its employees and ensuring their basic needs are met;

AND WHEREAS, in 2022, according to Statistics Canada, the rate of consumer inflation in Canada continued to rise, reaching 8.1% year over year in June, following a 7.7% gain in May;

AND WHEREAS the cost of living within the land that we call Canada and Ontario continues to rise exponentially to levels not yet seen before;

AND WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments have underfunded Métis Nation of Ontario regarding employee compensation. This can be seen when our funding and compensation structures are contextualized alongside the current compensation provided by other governments towards government employees in the same roles;

AND WHEREAS, by not paying a living wage to the Métis Nation of Ontario, we contribute to the impoveritization of our employees;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario does not have an official definition of a living wage nor a reporting structure surrounding the number of Métis Nation of Ontario employees receiving a living wage;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly direct the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario to establish a definition of and guidelines regarding compensating their employees with a fair living wage;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2022 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly directs the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario to review its Employee Compensation Framework, and identify and publish barriers and opportunities to advance

towards paying a living wage to all Métis Nation of Ontario employees, both salaried and non-salaried, as well as efforts the Métis Nation of Ontario has already taken in this regard;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2022 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly direct the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario to establish reporting structures surrounding the number of Métis Nation of Ontario employees receiving a living wage as well as mandate a yearly report be published outlining the number of employees receiving a living wage, the number of employees not receiving a living wage, and the progress the Métis Nation of Ontario has made towards becoming a living wage employer per the previously established Métis Nation of Ontario living wage definition and guidelines;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2022 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly directs the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario to advocate to the federal and provincial governments regarding the establishment of increased funds to support paying a living wage to Métis Nation of Ontario employees.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-03)

(135 in favour; 22 opposed; 10 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution: Involvement of Host Region Community Councils in AGAs

It was MOVED (Luanne Cunningham) and SECONDED (Suzanne Brunelle)

WHEREAS the MNO exists to serve Métis Nation citizens and communities in Ontario;

WHEREAS Métis Nation communities are best positioned to identify and secure the products and services of Métis Nation businesses in their respective communities;

WHEREAS supporting Métis businesses, and the businesses of other indigenous peoples, should be a top priority for the MNO and guide the sourcing of services and products for all MNO events and Annual General Assemblies (“AGAs”);

WHEREAS reclaiming traditional foodways is critical to resisting colonization and reconnecting with Métis Nation identity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that significant care and effort be made to provision Métis Nation food, crafts and performances for all MNO AGAs;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final decisions regarding the provisioning of services and products for MNO AGAs must involve the Community Councils of the host Region.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-04)

(127 in favour; 13 opposed; 5 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution: Métis Arts Strategy

It was MOVED (Evan Accettola) and SECONDED (Dylan Miner)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is developing an education and culture institute (i.e. The Powley Institute) as per previous direction of the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA);

AND WHEREAS, there is a need to support the growth, development, and ongoing support of the arts within our Métis communities;

AND WEREAS, MNO Community Councils, other Métis governments, and non-Indigenous institutions are often interested in Métis artists and artisans speaking, conducting workshops, or sharing their artistic practices;

AND WEREAS, the arts are important to the vibrancy of all human societies;

AND WEREAS, the arts are particularly important for Métis communities and governments;

AND WEREAS, the arts are central to past, present, and future of Métis self-governance;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the AGA direct that the MNO develop an arts and culture strategy that includes, but is not limited to:

- training and financial support for Métis artists, across a variety of artistic disciplines;
- establishment or expansion of arts infrastructure within the MNO.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-05)

(135 in favour; 10 opposed; 5 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution: Mapping Project to Address Areas Where Citizens Are Not Represented by a Community Council

It was MOVED (Andrew Dufrane) and SECONDED (Erik Gjos)

WHEREAS we are a people of the lands which nurture us today and which we value as the precious foundation of our future;

AND WHEREAS the MNO has established nine regional areas and 31 chartered Community Councils recognized by the MNO Bylaws to provide governance for where our citizens live;

AND WHEREAS some of our citizens live outside the currently defined areas of existing community councils;

AND WHEREAS in Region 6 there is an area where at least 245 citizens have no community level governance structure to support them;

AND WHEREAS we believe that there may be other areas in the MNO that have no Métis governance for citizens;

AND WHEREAS previous MNO Annual Reports have talked of mapping initiatives fostering community empowerment and development for Métis citizens (2019/20 Annual Report Métis Nation of Ontario);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO be directed to undertake a new mapping study to support Region 6, and all other MNO Regions and citizens, to identify areas where MNO citizens have no governance through a Community Council, or where geographical definition is imprecise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MNO develop a plan for governance and delivery of services, for all its citizens and report back on its findings and recommendations no later than at the MNO AGA in 2023.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-06)

(132 in favour; 8 opposed; 1 abstention)

Ordinary Resolution: Métis Nation of Ontario and R. v. Powley Anniversaries

It was MOVED (Mitch Case) and SECONDED (Hannah Bazinet)

WHEREAS 2023 will mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the 20th anniversary of our landmark victory in *R. v Powley*;

AND WHEREAS the impact of all the success our communities have seen since these two important events has changed the lives of our people in innumerable ways;

AND WHEREAS the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council has secured funds from Heritage Canada to develop a commemorative project to celebrate the Powley anniversary, including a permanent exhibit at the Sault Metis Centre, a traveling exhibit and a documentary;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 29th Annual General Assembly declare 2023 to be a Year of Special Recognition and direct the MNO Secretariat to seek funds from Ontario, Canada and other sources to support the MNO including our regions, community councils, and advisory councils to host events and activities to commemorate these two important events. Events and activities can include, but are not limited to:

- Hosting a youth art and writing contest
- Hosting community hunts, BBQs, fish fry's etc.
- Organizing a public education campaign utilizing the best tools available, such as virtual platforms, pod casts, to tell the story to Ontarians and Canadians
- Hosting oral history workshops for youth and MNO elders, senators, and former leaders to gather stories from the early days of the MNO and the Powley Case saga
- Creating an online course/website to educate on Powley and his legacy and/or Métis rights,
- Creation of children's books, classroom education materials to be distributed to Ontario schools
- Producing new materials (e.g., books, pamphlets, videos, website, etc.) on the history and culture of Métis communities in Ontario;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MNO propose to the Métis National Council jointly hosting a Metis Rights conference (similar to the Otipemisiwak conference hosted in 2020) to recognize the significance of these past 20 years and to look ahead to the future of Metis rights and that the proposed conference take place in Sault Ste. Marie, on or around September 19th, 2023.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-07)

(139 in favour; 3 opposed; 2 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution: Eligibility for Internal and External MNO Appointments

It was MOVED (Mitch Case) and SECONDED (Hannah Bazinet)

WHEREAS the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) passed resolution PC210528-09 directing the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) administration to, among other things, undertake province-wide consultations with all citizens on the final report related to the MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (“Registry Review”) with a view to preparing and publicly releasing a “What We Heard Report” based on those consultations;

AND WHEREAS the province-wide consultation process took place between June 2021 and May 2022 and consisted of seven (7) virtual all-citizen town halls, one (1) virtual MNO leadership town hall, an online feedback portal, and an in-person MNO Leadership Rendezvous session;

AND WHEREAS on March 27, 2022, in response to preliminary feedback received from citizens during the consultations, the PCMNO adopted in principle the draft *MNO Policy #2022-001: Eligibility for Internal and External MNO Appointments* for further engagement with MNO Community Councils;

AND WHEREAS the additional engagements have not yet been completed, but the current draft of the policy provides that it “shall be brought to the MNO AGA for its consideration and potential adoption”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 MNO AGA directs:

1. The MNO administration, consistent with the PCMNO’s direction, to engage with MNO Community Councils on the development of and further revisions to the draft *MNO Policy #2022-001: Eligibility for Internal and External MNO Appointments*, which is attached at Appendix A to this resolution.

RESOLVED AGA220821-08)

(132 in favour; 12 opposed; 2 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution: Adoption by Métis Citizens

It was MOVED (Lorette McKnight) and SECONDED (Pierre Lefebvre)

WHEREAS MNO needs to address the important issue of adopted children by Métis citizens

WHEREAS adopted children by Métis citizens do not qualify to be added to the citizenship list thus eliminating them to participate in many MNO programs and services

WHEREAS MNO does not have a policy to address acceptance of adopted children by Métis citizens as citizens

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

- The issue of adoption by Métis citizens be discussed by PCMNO; and
- MNO report progress on the issue of adoption to citizens within one (1) year or at the next AGA.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-09)

(89 in favour; 60 opposed; 6 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution: Framework for MNO Environmental Policy

It was MOVED (Suzanne Brunelle) and SECONDED (Brian Black)

WHEREAS the Métis are a People of the Land;

WHEREAS the Statement of Prime Purpose states that we, the Métis of the Métis Nation of Ontario value the lands as “the precious foundation of our future”;

WHEREAS the Statement of Prime Purpose states that we, the Métis of the Métis Nation of Ontario have respect “for the land and for the animal and plant life that surround us”;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation of Ontario develop the framework for a Métis Nation of Ontario Environmental Protection Policy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario strike an Environmental Working Group to consider developing the policy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario to meaningfully consult Councils and citizens in the development of the framework and the development of the Environmental Protection Policy.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-10)

(103 in favour; 21 opposed; 7 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution: Financial Support for MNO Women’s Veteran’s and Youth Councils and 2S Working Group

It was MOVED (Jordyn Playne) and SECONDED (Suzanne Jackson)

WHEREAS the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) passed resolution AGA17-06 by consensus;

WHEREAS despite the resolution passing by consensus In 2017, the MNO has neglected to act on the resolution;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran’s Council (MNOVC), Métis Nation of Ontario Women’s Council (MNOWC), Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) and Two-Spirit (2S) LGBTQ+ Working Group continue to do incredible work for their constituents and for the entire provincial Metis community, yet currently receive no funding from the Metis Nation of Ontario Secretariat;

WHEREAS the MNOVC, MNOWC, MNOYC and 2S LGBTQ+ Working Group are provincial in scope and mandate; and

WHEREAS the MNOVC, MNOWC, MNOYC and 2S LGBTQ+ Working Group continue to 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 person journey as Metis people;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2S LGBTQ+ Working Group be added to the list of councils that the AGA directed the MNO to hold the preliminary meeting with under AGA17-06;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the preliminary meeting approved under AGA17-06 be scheduled within 60 days of the 2022 Annual General Assembly pursuant to the other direction provided under that resolution.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-11)

(96 in favour; 25 opposed; 3 abstentions)