

AGA2021



THE 28TH MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY • SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2021

2021 MINUTES

Minutes of the 28th Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Virtual Annual General Assembly (AGA) held September 18-19, 2021.

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

DAY ONE – September 18, 2021

MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENING

The AGA commenced with a video of the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, “We Aspire”, performed by Amanda Rheame, and “O Canada”, performed by Leah Belle.

OPENING PRAYER

PCMNO Executive Senator Gravelle offered an Opening Prayer.

OPENING REMARKS

Hank Rowlinson, Chair, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO)

Chair Rowlinson called the AGA to order at 9:07 a.m. and confirmed that the AGA was being held virtually, in accordance with COVID-19 pandemic health restrictions, to protect the health and safety of delegates and ensure that necessary business was conducted for the MNO to meet its legal obligations. Important updates on key initiatives and activities would be provided; however, no Special or Ordinary Resolutions would be considered. Delegates were provided with an overview of the virtual platform, LUMI, which would allow for participation and electronic voting throughout the Assembly.

A moment of silence was held in recognition that many citizens who had lost close friends and family members during the prior year.

The Assembly was referred to the Métis Rules of Order, Bylaws and other MNO AGA materials provided under the “DOCUMENTS” tab of the online platform, and online at www.mnoaga.ca (see attached list of “Reference Materials” for a list of reports and documents reviewed throughout the Assembly). The Chair reviewed the AGA Standing Rules and confirmed that the Chair or Vice-Chair would intervene should any rules be violated.

Sharon Cadeau, Vice-Chair, PCMNO

Vice-Chair Cadeau welcomed citizens, acknowledged the success of the virtual Kitchen Party the prior evening, and thanked staff for working to ensure the AGA ran smoothly. Additionally, 2021 AGA sponsors and COVID-19 Capacity sponsors were recognized for their contributions.

Introduction of PCMNO

President Froh welcomed delegates and referred to the Welcome Letter from the PCMNO¹, provided with the meeting materials. A video was played introducing each of the PCMNO members.

Virtual Trade Show

Vice-Chair Cadeau invited citizens to visit www.mnoaga.ca to access the virtual tradeshow through links to various Métis artisans and vendors.

WELCOMING REMARKS FROM DIGNITARIES AND GUESTS

Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development / Minister of Indigenous Affairs *(pre-recorded video)*

Minister Rickford extended greetings to delegates, and recognized MNO's unwavering commitment to fostering healthy and resilient Métis communities. The Minister expressed that he looked forward to the year ahead and the continued support and strengthening of the relationship between the Province of Ontario and MNO.

Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario *(pre-recorded video)*

On behalf of the Province of Ontario, Premier Ford extended best wishes to the MNO and its citizens for a successful virtual AGA. The significance of the annual gathering was acknowledged; despite the difficulties the COVID-19 pandemic had presented. The Premier referenced the recent discoveries of unmarked graves on the grounds of former residential schools and the importance of standing together to take strong actions towards reconciliation.

Audrey Poitras, President, Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) *(pre-recorded video)*

MNA President Poitras acknowledged President Froh and the PCMNO, Elders, Seniors, Knowledge Keepers and Youth. She urged delegates to pray in remembrance of the children who were recently found in unmarked graves (and those waiting to be found), so they could make their way home. The significance of the MNO hosting its Assembly on the date of the *R. v Powley (2003)* Supreme Court of Canada decision was recognized, as Steve Powley and his son set out a pathway and new direction for Métis rights in Canada. President Poitras confirmed that the MNA looked forward to continuing its work with the MNO and sent best wishes for a successful Assembly.

Glen McCallum, President, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) *(pre-recorded video)*

MN-S President McCallum acknowledged citizens and thanked President Froh for the invitation to speak to the virtual Assembly. The important opportunity to connect, gather and do business at an Assembly was recognized. President McCallum encouraged MNO to continue its good work.

Lissa Smith, Acting President, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) *(pre-recorded video)*

MNBC Acting President Smith extended greetings and well-wishes on behalf of the MNBC's Cabinet. She recognized that 2021 was a challenging year with the pandemic and the discovery of unmarked graves on the grounds of former residential schools and affirmed the need for governments to come together to make meaningful and lasting impacts in the lives of Métis citizens. The Acting President congratulated the MNO on its Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement (MGRSA) and continued work towards self-government.

¹ Included in the [MNO Annual Report 2020/21](#)

Melanie Omeniho, President, Les Femme Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO) – Women of the Métis Nation

LFMO President Omeniho expressed appreciation for LFMO's relationship with the MNO and the ongoing opportunities to work with the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC). The relationships worked to advance their collective interests and prioritize actions related to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and 2SLGBTQIA+ folks. Collaborative efforts to enhance the quality of life of women, girls and gender-diverse Métis, would continue to advance a strong and prosperous Métis Nation.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 9:56 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

HISTORIC COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT – RAINY RIVER/LAKE OF THE WOODS

Delegates viewed a video spotlighting the historic community of Rainy River/Lake of the Woods.

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS AND YEAR IN REVIEW

Margaret Froh, President, Métis Nation of Ontario

President Froh thanked Executive Senator Gravelle for the Opening Prayer and, on behalf of the PCMNO, welcomed delegates to the 28th MNO AGA. Citizens were commended for working collectively to keep MNO families and communities safe throughout the pandemic. As restrictions cautiously lifted, there were renewed hopes that citizens and loved ones would safely gather in-person again.

Community Council Presidents, Council members, and volunteers were recognized for going above and beyond to support citizens and maintaining a sense of connection and community. Captains of the Hunt (COTH) and COTH Liaisons were acknowledged for their passion for protecting Métis rights to harvest. President Froh thanked the MNOWC and Women's Representatives at the Assembly for their commitment and advocacy for raising women's voices. The MNO Youth Council (MNOYC) was recognized for their powerful voices and for developing a bright future for the next generation.

Gratitude was expressed to Senators, who worked to ground citizens and stay connected throughout COVID-19. Members of the Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ Working Group were welcomed and thanked for their support for building a more inclusive MNO community. Past and present members of the MNO Veteran's Council (MNOVC) were honoured for their commitment to advocacy, education, support and service on behalf of Métis Veterans.

President Froh expressed gratitude to the 300+ MNO staff members for keeping the systems of governance working and the difference their efforts made in the lives of Métis communities across the province. MNO citizens and special guests were welcomed to the Assembly and thanked for pushing their government to evolve and ensure that the rights of MNO families and communities would be respected and protected for generations to come.

The President reviewed activities and achievements since the November 2020 AGA as outlined in the [MNO 2020/21 Annual Report](#), including:

- Ongoing and enhanced programs and services, including support for housing and homelessness, early learning and childcare (ELCC), child and family services, and mental health and addictions
- Progress towards self-government since the 2019 signing of the MGRSA

- Completion of the Final Report of the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Review and citizen consultation to inform next steps
- Relationship building with the Métis National Council (MNC) and Governing Members, and confirmation that a MNC General Assembly was scheduled September 29-30, 2021
- COVID-19 response efforts and citizen supports
- MNO operations, including:
 - o Education and Training
 - o Healing and Wellness
 - o Lands, Resources and Consultation (LRC)
 - o Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) and Community Relations (CR)
 - o Housing and Infrastructure
 - o Registry
- Welcoming newly elected Senators to the PCMNO: Senator Callaghan and Senator Ethier
- Meetings of the PCMNO and the commitment to greater communication, transparency, and accountability to citizens.

President Froh commented on business to be addressed at the Assembly and expressed gratitude to all in attendance for providing the ability to conduct MNO business to advance Métis rights and walk together on the collective path to Métis self-government.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 11:35 a.m. and reconvened at 11:45 a.m.

SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Since 2006, the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award has been presented to an MNO citizen who has made ongoing contributions to the MNO and their community. President Froh introduced members of the Volunteer of the Year Award Committee, Mitch Case (Chair), Peter Coture, Greg Garratt and Brenda Powley, who were responsible for reviewing nominations and selecting the 2021 recipient.

Marie-Louise Perron, from the Ottawa Region Métis community, was announced as the recipient of the 2021 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award. President Froh extended congratulations and reviewed a list of Marie-Louise Perron's accomplishments, contributions and acts of service as an educator, mentor, author, archivist, public servant and Ottawa Region Métis Council member².

Lunch Break

The Assembly recessed at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

When the meeting reconvened, Marie-Louise Perron shared that she was humbled and honoured to receive the Volunteer of the Year Award.

² A biography of Marie-Louise Perron's achievements and contributions can be found on the MNO [website](#).

MNO 2021 AGA BUSINESS MEETING COMMENCES

1. Establish Quorum

Chair Rowlinson reported that there were 172 registered citizens in attendance at 12:00 p.m. on Day 1 of Assembly, with quorum being set at 86.

HISTORIC COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT – NORTHERN LAKE SUPERIOR

Delegates viewed a video highlighting the historic community of Northern Lake Superior.

2. Adoption of the 2021 Annual General Assembly Agenda

In response to questions, Chair Rowlinson confirmed that if reasons for abstaining or voting against resolutions were provided, they would be recorded in the Assembly minutes.

It was MOVED (Suzanne Brunelle) and SECONDED (Margaret Froh)

That the Agenda for the 28th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario, scheduled September 18-19, 2021, be adopted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA210918-01)

3. 2020 AGA Minutes

3.1 Adoption of the 2020 AGA Minutes

Jo Anne Young, Secretary-Treasurer, reviewed the resolutions in the draft minutes of the MNO 2020 AGA³.

During discussion, clarifications were provided on:

- The number of registered citizens, referenced in the President's State of the Nation address
- The availability of Assembly documents at www.mnoaga.ca, posted on September 12, 2021
- The process for requesting a Regional Representative to resign.

It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young) and SECONDED (Shirley Debassige)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held August 23-25, 2020 be adopted with an amendment to Resolution #AGA201107-02 to replace "August 23-25, 2020" with "August 23-25, 2019".

RESOLVED (AGA210918-02)

(102 in favour; 11 opposed; 29 abstentions)

Citizens who opposed or abstained from the vote were invited to submit an explanation under the MESSAGING tab (available through the virtual meeting platform) for inclusion in the minutes. Citizens could also submit their explanations by email to the Secretary-Treasurer at JoAnneY@metisnation.org. A number of citizens indicated they voted in opposition or abstained, as they did not attend the 2020 AGA or were not provided adequate time or information to participate in the vote.

³ MNO 2020 AGA Draft Minutes and Record of Resolutions can be found under "AGA Business" on the MNO AGA [website](#)

3.2 Business Arising from 2020 AGA Minutes

Secretary-Treasurer Young invited citizens to post questions or comments related to progress on resolutions from the 2020 AGA in the “MESSAGING” section of the virtual platform or by email to JoAnneY@metisnation.org.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 3:18 p.m. and reconvened at 3:32 p.m.

HISTORIC COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT – ABITIBI ISLAND

Delegates viewed a video highlighting the historic community of Abitibi Island.

4. Financial Update

4.1 Secretary-Treasurer’s Update/Finance Report

Secretary-Treasurer Young reported on financial activities over the past year and commented on:

- Recent hires to the Finance Branch
- Retaining Baker Tilly to provide record-keeping services to four Community Councils as part of a pilot project
- A reporting framework developed in November 2020, which included recurring meetings with budget holders to develop a comprehensive budget for MNO
- Analysis undertaken on a vendor management program to reduce spending and build the capacity of MNO staff.

HISTORIC COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT – KILLARNEY AND ENVIRONS

Delegates viewed a video highlighting the historic community of Killarney and the surrounding area.

4.2 Approval of 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements

Secretary-Treasurer Young confirmed the 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements could be viewed at www.mnoaga.ca, using the individual verification code provided to delegates when they registered for the virtual AGA.

Benoit Groulx, Audit Partner, Baker Tilly LLP, referred to the Independent Auditor’s Report. It was confirmed that the financial statements were an unqualified opinion. They fairly presented the financial position of the MNO Secretariat as at March 31, 2021, and the results of operations and its cash flows for the year-ended March 31, 2019, in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Benoit Groulx reviewed the Audited Financial Statements for the year-ending March 31, 2021.

During discussion, requests were made for:

- Further information on “Core Operations” and Financial Statement Notes #2 and #10
- Written responses to questions raised related to the financial statements (e.g., funding allocated to functions of specific programs)
- A breakdown of travel expenses used by Regional Councils from their allocated funding
- Costs related to legal, consulting, and professional fees, broken down by vendor.

Additional comments and clarifications were offered on:

- Funding for the CR Branch through ELCC dollars, rather than the New Relationship Fund (NRF)
- Travel funds provided to each Regional Councilor through the NRF
- Results of the PCMNO vote to approve the Financial Statements
- The provision for “doubtful accounts”, which was larger than last year
- The increase in cash flow
- The Métis Rights Advancement Fund (MRAF) and reference to “post-Powley”
- Steps required to access funding allocated to the Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle.

Point of Order

A Point of Order was raised that the approved MNO 2020 AGA Agenda indicated adjournment of the Assembly on Day One at 5:00 p.m. It was requested that the remaining Day One Agenda items be deferred to Day Two, due to time constraints.

Ruling of the Chair

As a motion was pending to adopt the Financial Statements, the Chair ruled that Day One of the Assembly would be extended to complete the Financial Update.

Challenge the Chair

In response to a challenge on the Ruling of the Chair, the Ruling was put to a vote.

Vote on Ruling

On the question of whether Day One should be extended to complete the Financial Update, 104 delegates voted in favour, 30 voted in opposition, and four abstained.

During ensuing discussion, it was confirmed that the Financial Statements would be sent to Council Presidents.

It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young,) and SECONDED (Andrew Dufrane)

That the 28th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly adopt the 2020-2021 Métis Nation of Ontario Audited Financial Statements, as presented.

RESOLVED (AGA210918-03)

(96 in favour; 42 opposed; and 10 abstentions)

Citizens who opposed or abstained from the vote were invited to submit an explanation under the MESSAGING tab (available through the virtual meeting platform) for inclusion in the minutes. Citizens could also submit their explanations by email to the Secretary-Treasurer at JoAnneY@metisnation.org. Reasons provided for objections and abstentions included:

- The information provided lacked adequate detail to make an informed decision
- Questions raised on the financial statements were not answered; written answers were requested
- Concern that PCMNO members were not provided with details of the financials, including contracts, invoices, bank statements and lease agreements
- Financial statements were not sent to citizens 21 days prior to the AGA, as per the *Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2021*.

4.3 Appointment of Auditor

It was MOVED (Kathleen Anderson) and SECONDED (Steven Callaghan)

That the 28th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly appoint Baker Tilly, Ottawa LLP, as the Métis Nation of Ontario Auditor for 2021-2022.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA210918-04)

Vote to Continue the Agenda

The Chair called for a vote on whether to continue the agenda to receive the Update Reports. 78 delegates voted in favour, 55 voted in opposition, and four abstained.

5. Update Reports

It was confirmed that all Update Reports could be viewed on the [MNO AGA website](#).

5.1 Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council

Delegates viewed a video update from MNOYC President Jordyn Playne.

5.2 Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council

Delegates viewed a video update from MNOWC President Suzanne Jackson.

5.3 Senators

Delegates viewed a video update from PCMNO Executive Senator Rene Gravelle.

5.4 Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran's Council

Delegates viewed a video update from MNOVC President Brian Prairie.

5.5 Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ Working Group

Delegates viewed a video update from Benny Michaud, Spokesperson for the Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ Working Group.

5.6 Captains of the Hunt

Delegates viewed a video update from Brian Tucker, the Deputy Captain of the Hunt.

5.7 Question and Answer Session

During discussion, it was noted that:

- The MNOWC Annual General Meeting (AGM) was not held during the year, due to concerns that the AGM could not be professionally arranged
- Harvesting mobility remained a priority for the Captains of the Hunt and would be negotiated under the Harvesting Framework Agreement with Ontario
- A system was required, supported by rights-bearing communities, that determined who was permitted to harvest within territories

- The MNOVC could consider amending its membership criteria to accommodate Veterans who were purged from the Canadian Armed Forces without an honourable discharge but received an annotation on their file that they were wrongly discriminated against.

6. MNO 2021 AGA – Recap and Adjournment

Chair Rowlinson thanked delegates for their participation during Day One of the Assembly.

Day One of the 2021 MNO AGA, held September 18-19, 2021, adjourned on September 18, 2021, at 6:27 p.m.

DAY TWO – September 19, 2021

MNO 2021 AGA BUSINESS MEETING RECONVENED

7. MNO 2021 AGA Re-Opening

The 2021 MNO Virtual AGA held September 18-19, 2021, reconvened on Day Two – September 19, 2021, at 9:06 a.m.

Chair Rowlinson welcomed participants and recalled discussions and presentations that occurred on Day One, before reviewing the Agenda for Day Two.

8. Powley Day Acknowledgement

President Froh acknowledged that on September 19, 2003, the *R. v. Powley* Supreme Court of Canada decision affirmed that the Métis had existing Aboriginal rights under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The *Powley* decision subsequently influenced other legal victories related to Métis rights, such as *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada, 2013* and *R. v. Daniels, 2016*. President Froh added that the *Powley* decision was also the foundation for Métis relationships with Canada, resulting in the signing of framework agreements and the 2019 MGRSA.

President Froh recognized Steve and Roddy Powley for their strength and humility as they fought for Métis rights. Their efforts opened the door to a new era of Métis rights recognition in Ontario. Each year, MNO celebrates Powley Day to show gratitude to the entire Powley family.

Delegates viewed video presentations from Brenda and Kim Powley, Region 4 Councilor Mitch Case, and MNO Founding President Tony Belcourt, highlighting the *Powley* case and decision.

Councilor Case commented on the significance of the *Powley* victory and shared that the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council, with support from Know History Inc., secured \$197,000 in funding from Heritage Canada. The funding would be used to develop an exhibition at the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Cultural Centre and an accompanying documentary to commemorate the *Powley* decision. Delegates were invited to share knowledge and ideas in participation in the project.

Chair Rowlinson shared that he was fortunate to be present when the *Powley* victory was announced. The *Powley* family continues to inspire citizens to stand together and speak out against injustice for the common good of the Métis Nation.

The Chair acknowledged a suggestion that the MNO could create a flag that includes a symbol of the image of the pin Steve Powley wore over his heart.

HISTORIC COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT – SAULT STE MARIE AND ENVIRONS

Delegates viewed a video highlighting the historic community of Sault Ste Marie and the surrounding area.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

9. Advancing Métis Rights and Self-Government

President Froh reiterated the *Powley* victory's impact on advancing Métis rights in Canada and the Province of Ontario. The decision led to the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting, the MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation, the MNO-Canada Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (NWOMC), and the MGRSA⁴.

Jason Madden, Partner, Pape Salter Teillet LLP (PST), reviewed a presentation titled, “Update on Métis Self-Government”, and commented on:

- Legal developments and litigation, including:
 - o *R. v. Desautel*, 2021 SCC 17
 - o *MMF v. Brian Pallister et al*
 - o *MNA v. Alberta Government*
 - o Adoption of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in Federal Legislation Act*
 - o *Dickson v. Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation*, 2021 YKCA 5
 - o *Green v. MNO*, 2021 ONSC 5808
 - o Additional cases in Ontario, including: *Algonquins of Ontario v. Ontario and MNO*; *Restoule v. Canada and Ontario*; and *Saugeen Ojibway Nations v. Ontario and Canada*
- The Métis inherent right to self-government and a timeline of legal and political strategies to advance those rights
- The signing of the MGRSA in 2019 and the pathway to transition the MNO to a legally-recognized Métis government under Canadian law.

Brian Black, Director of Self-Government Strategy, reviewed a presentation titled, “The Path Forward: Métis Self-Government”, and commented on:

- The MGRSA purpose and requirements that would lead to federal legislative recognition
- Additional negotiations separate from the MGRSA (e.g. Health and Wellness, Labour and Education, Housing, Child and Family Services, Application of Métis Government Laws on Lands, etc.)
- Activity updates, including progress on Regions finalizing and signing their Regional Implementation Agreement (RIA)
- Ratification votes required to solidify and approve the MNO Constitution, following extensive consultation with MNO citizens

⁴ The agreements can be found on the [MNO AGA website](#) under “Reference Documents”

- The self-government journey ahead, and the importance of hearing what “self-government” means to Métis citizens.

During a review of the presentation titled “MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Review Report”, Brian Black provided an overview of the Registry Review process, results of the Self-Government Readiness Review Report, and an overview of past and upcoming citizen consultation sessions. A province-wide vote or Special Assembly on MNO Citizenship would guide the next steps on potential amendments required to MNO Bylaws and Registration policy.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- The honour of the Crown as a constitutional principle that is legally enforceable
- Clarification that the federal government does not play a significant role in most Impact Benefit Agreements
- Opportunities to provide feedback on self-government matters through All Citizen Town Halls, Leadership Town Halls, engagements, etc.
- The MNO motion to strike the Algonquin claim argued in August 2021, and a related decision that would take approximately six months
- Concern regarding the Registry Review process for assigning traditional territories
- A PCMNO resolution to release funds to Regions to develop their RIA and RIA Workplans
- Next steps in negotiating Métis land claims, including research specific to land claims
- A recent letter from the Government of Canada which references potential funding for research on claims outside of the Treaty 3 area
- Protecting connections to history and lands, and understanding where citizens come from
- MNO’s efforts to explore and find new ways to connect with citizens (e.g. surveys, etc.).

Lunch Break

The Assembly recessed at 12:21 p.m. and reconvened at 12:58 p.m.

HISTORIC COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT – GEORGIAN BAY AND ENVIRONS

Delegates viewed a video highlighting the historic community of Georgian Bay and the surrounding area.

10. Economic Update

10.1 Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF)

The Chair introduced a video presentation by MVDF Vice Chair Art Bennett, titled “Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) Report to the Métis Nation of Ontario”, which highlighted:

- The MVDF profile and its intent to maximize wealth and income for Métis entrepreneurs
- COVID-19 impacts on Métis businesses and MVDF’s suspension of interest charges and payments from February – December 2020
- Fiscal Year 20/21 results and the provision of over \$6.36 million in emergency financing to 208 Métis businesses
- The 20% increase in total financing in fiscal year 2020/21
- The negotiation of \$2.69 million in government support for COVID-19 impacts
- Third-party reviews of MVDF, which MNO and the Province of Ontario jointly managed.

Art Bennett and MVDF Treasurer Brian St. Amant joined for consideration of this item.

During discussion, it was noted that:

- Business loans are available for all Métis citizens in Ontario
- Any Métis business can apply for, and be considered for, funding based on its own merit
- MVDF was initially resource sector-based, but has expanded to support all types of businesses
- Cultural grants are available through the Education and Training Branch
- A potential opportunity for a filmmaker in residence with Canadian Geographic.

10.2 Infinity Trust

In a video prepared by Infinity Trust, Michael Templeton, Pape Salter Teillet LLP, Infinity Trust Trustee, provided comments on:

- The establishment of Infinity Trust on December 14, 2012, with the MNO Secretariat as the sole beneficiary
- An overview of Infinity Trust's investments and taxation structure
- MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law, and the creation of Infinity Investments LLP, to hold, manage and oversee the MNO economic development structures.

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Rationale for investing in Switch Insurance to diversify and bring cost efficiencies to the MNO
- Efforts to work closely with larger carriers, to enable MNO citizens to access top rates and other benefits (e.g., scholarships and bursaries)
- Confirmation that information will be provided to MNO citizens on program(s) they can access.

10.3 Métis Infinity Investments

The Chair introduced a video titled "Métis Infinity Investments", in which Lindsay Boyd, Vice Chair, and Scott Patles-Richardson, CEO, Métis Infinity Investments (MII), provided comments on:

- The history, ownership and governance of MII
- MII's five-year Strategic Plan (2018-2023)
- MII's portfolio of companies, including MNO Solar, Switch Insurance, Red Lake Plumbing and Heating and a number of successful construction joint ventures
- Five years of profitability, reinvestments and additional Métis employees
- 2020 economic factors, dominated by the global pandemic, with continued profitability
- Outlook for 2022 and beyond, including the expectation of an increase in revenues.

Lindsay Boyd, Vice Chair, Brenda LaRose, Director, and Scott Patles-Richardson, CEO, joined the meeting to be available to respond to questions related to the presentation.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Scholarships and bursaries for citizens who are out of province
- MII's openness to having a presence in the technology sector, which offers tremendous opportunity but with higher risks
- Interest in a basic comprehensive Métis Health Plan
- MII's role to seek out opportunities to make money for the MNO
- MII's focus on leveraging purchase power to bring benefit to MNO citizens
- The significance of health in MNO's Framework Agreements and MII inclusion in national conversations on the health file.

10.4 Prosperity Trust

Rachel Bayley, Regional Manager, Indigenous Trust Services, TD Wealth, referred to a presentation titled, “Métis Nation of Ontario Prosperity Trust: AGM Update” from the Canada Trust Company and reviewed:

- Involvement in the Trust: Beneficiary (MNO Secretariat and its successors); Corporate Trustee (The Canada Trust Company); Financial Advisor (T.E. Wealth); Legal Counsel (Michael Templeton); Accountant (Baker Tilly); and Investment Managers (Buetel Goodman and Mawer)
- Trust Rules and Responsibilities, including investing funds consistent with the Investment Policy Statement
- The Trust’s opening market value of \$27.5 million and its current value of \$31,764,405
- Prosperity and economic development purpose of the Trust
- Annual Trust 2021 distribution of \$860,540 to the MNO.

Jack Jamieson, Vice-President, Indigenous Services, Toronto T.E. Wealth, reviewed a presentation titled “Métis Nation of Ontario Prosperity Trust: AGM Update – From an Investment Perspective”, and commented on:

- Prosperity Trust’s purpose and investment objectives, outlined in its Vision
- Prosperity Trust holdings for the period ending June 30, 2021, and appreciation on invested assets.

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Investment prospectus of the companies in the portfolio
- A comprehensive quarterly report provided to the MNO with a listing of all holdings
- Investment managers as part of the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investing
- The need for an *Ethical Investment Policy*
- The Economic Development Working Group, with members from the PCMNO and citizens
- Policies to guide the Investment Managers and the potential to develop additional policies
- Clarification that investment fees are typically less than 1% and are currently at 0.5%
- Seeking opportunities for Métis citizens to participate and invest.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 2:45 p.m. and reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

HISTORIC COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT – MATTAWA/OTTAWA RIVER AND ENVIRONS

Delegates viewed a video highlighting the historic community of Mattawa/Ottawa River and the surrounding area.

10. Economic Update (Continued)

Discussion resumed on the Economic Update, and comments were offered regarding:

- Funding distributed to each Regional Council
- Two decisions related to PCMNO compensation, which had been subsequently rescinded
- A June 2021 PCMNO motion which specified that only the Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Operations Officer, and Chief Financial Officer would attend PCMNO meetings unless a staff person was invited to speak to a specific agenda item
- The ability of Regional Councilors to provide a list of their committees

- Clarification that the President has not made formal portfolio appointments
- Clarification that until a Special Resolution is passed at a future Assembly, current citizens – even those with incomplete files – could vote at Assemblies and in elections
- Accessibility of adopted PCMNO minutes, which reflect motions passed and defeated.

11. MNO Cultural Commission (MNOCC) Update

President Froh, Secretary-Treasurer Young and Ursula D'Angelo, Chief Financial Officer, provided comments regarding:

- The MNOCC, which was incorporated with a goal to support Métis culture and art
- The importance of arms-length entities like the MNOCC to advance key priorities
- A PCMNO-approved plan to revitalize the MNOCC and transform it into an active fundraising charity to support Métis arts and culture within the MNO and the Powley Institute
- Sharing and promoting Métis arts and culture and telling the stories of Métis communities to build Métis rights assertions in Ontario.

Secretary-Treasurer Young explained that the PCMNO appointed a new MNOCC Board of Directors in January 2021, with the task of updating the MNOCC Bylaws, which required amendments to address the requirements of the *Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2021*. A first draft of the revised Bylaws and Letters Patent was developed, and the Board is considering a variety of enhancements, including an Advisory Committee, policy and process for tax-deductible donations, and identifying ways to work on projects that meet the MNOCC objectives. Over the coming months, the MNOCC will undertake engagement with citizens to establish a solid vision for the MNOCC as a fundraising tool.

In response to a question regarding attendance at the next MNO Assembly, it was noted that MNO staff and PCMNO were committed to exploring opportunities for safe and democratic engagement. It was anticipated that the next Assembly would be held on the third weekend of August 2022 in Toronto.

During ensuing discussion, it was noted that a MNOCC Annual General Meeting had not been held as the draft audited Financial Statements were not completed. It was anticipated the statements would be ready for presentation to the MNOCC Board of Directors before its October 20, 2021, meeting and could be distributed following that meeting.

12. MNO Programs and Services Presentations

12.1 Housing Strategy and Engagement

During a video presentation titled “Housing and Homelessness”, Robynn Sadler, Director of Housing and Infrastructure, commented on:

- Establishment of the Housing and Infrastructure Branch in 2020 with a mandate to increase housing and related support options for Métis citizens
- Community outreach, including the 2017 AGA in Kenora, where a survey was conducted, and focus groups were held with Senators, the MNOWC and MNOYC
- Housing and Homelessness support programs: Home Improvement Program (HIP) Pilot; Home Buyers Contribution Program; and Financial Literacy Program
- COVID-19 Housing Supports

- Results for 2020/21, included providing 757 citizens with direct financial supports, and support to 511 Seniors while in isolation; additionally, 1,000 HIP applications were received
- Research projects to identify and mitigate housing and homelessness data and research gaps
- The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Housing Supply Challenge, which awarded the MNO \$200,000 to develop a proof of concept and implementation plan
- Submission of a proposal to the CMHC National Housing Strategy Research and Planning Fund
- MNO analysis of household composition, socio-economic characteristics and housing conditions as a Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord deliverable
- Development of the MNO Housing and Homelessness Strategy and Engagement Plan.

12.2 Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC)

During a video presentation titled “Early Learning and Child Care Overview”, Amanda Pont-Shanks, Manager of ELCC, commented on:

- The ELCC Framework developed in partnership with MNC Governing Members
- Examination of the existing ELCC service landscape in Ontario
- Federal updates on ELCC, to include enhancements to existing funding
- Development of the ELCC Strategic Growth Plan
- Information gathering and engagement on ELCC needs in Métis communities across Ontario
- Current ELCC staffing, upcoming hiring and program parameters
- ELCC family support programs including the Child Care Subsidy Pilot, Child Care Stipend Program, Enhanced Extra-Curricular Reimbursement Program, Supports for Métis Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECE) designation, and Council Camp funding
- ELCC Special Projects, including ELCC Camps and Socials, Early Learning Book Program, Early Learning Kits for Educators, Métis Baby Bundle Kits, Current ELCC Kits, ELCC Resource Development, ELCC Professional Learning Conference, and ELCC Education Support Advocates.

Discussion ensued on:

- The gap in programming for children aged 13-16 and funding that only supports children up to the age of 12
- Opportunities for children aged 13-16, including: carpenter camps, the backpack program, healing and wellness family wellbeing programs, and other initiatives
- Impacts of COVID-19 on students aged 13-16, and the need to pursue mental health funding
- Interest in a “cradle-to-grave” approach to support all life phases:
 - o The Gathering Our Wise Ones program for seniors for those aged 55+, and tablet program
 - o Providing regular meeting space for Senators to gather.

12.3 Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS)

Alisha Kaba, Manager of Métis Child, Youth and Family Services Project, introduced a video presentation, and offered responses to questions and comments related to:

- The CYFS Project, which intended to assist Métis communities with goals including:
 - o Creating more clarity about the role of the MNO in child welfare cases
 - o Building systems that are conducive to Métis family needs
- Consultations completed in Region 1 on the creation of an Agency
- Activities and upcoming events specific to the process with Regions 2-9
- Engagement beginning November 15, 2021, on the design phase of the CYFS Project

- Potential to discuss with the funder, expanding the program to include children with cognitive deficits or physical disabilities
- Availability of some recreational/mental health supports.

Melissa Gonzalez, Métis Resource Home Recruiter, offered additional comments on:

- The objective of the Foster Home Recruitment Campaign (the “Campaign”) to work with the Children Aid Society and others to help keep Métis children in Métis homes
- The first round of the Campaign scheduled October to December 2021, which would be conducted virtually by Region.

12.4 COVID-19: Survey Results and Supports

During a video presentation titled “MNO COVID-19 Survey February-March 2021”, Sarah Edwards, MNO Epidemiologist, and two graduate students from the University of Ontario, commented on:

- Funding provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada and the MNO
- Participation of 4,405 Métis citizens in the online survey, and results including:
 - o Age ranges of the respondents, with slightly more women than men participating and 1% being non-binary
 - o Most parents reporting that their school-aged children returned to school in-person
 - o Most citizens reporting that their physical health was the same or better but that their mental health was worse, compared to before the pandemic
 - o Most citizens reporting no changes in their employment status since the pandemic
 - o Most citizens responding that their finances were the same or worse due to the pandemic
- “5C” psychological characteristics associated with COVID-19 vaccine intentions
- Questions included in the COVID-19 Vaccine Behaviour Study.

In response to questions, Sarah Edwards commented on:

- MNO’s data sharing and governance agreement with the International Credential Evaluation Service (ICES)
- MNO’s participation in federal vaccination tables and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization
- Requests for funding for additional surveys to track citizens’ COVID-19 recovery and resiliency
- The ICES data sharing process, including probabilistic linkages and anonymized identifiers
- Information available on the Government of Canada and Ontario websites regarding vaccination for children under the age of 12.

MNO 2021 AGA – BUSINESS MEETING CONCLUDES

Chair Rowlinson thanked citizens for their participation in the virtual AGA and looked forward to the opportunity to meet again in person. Gratitude was expressed to staff and contractors for their work in supporting the successful Assembly.

President Froh thanked delegates for their participation and reviewed updates and discussions held over two days. The Chair and Vice Chair were thanked for ensuring all matters were addressed. The President expressed gratitude to the PCMNO, Advisory Councils, Branch staff, allies and friends who provided updates, and to all the Community Council leaders and volunteers.

Delegates were assured that the MNO communities and citizens would continue to work to build a Constitution. The fundamental governance work, to determine the balance of power and build self-government incrementally, would rely on efforts and support from all citizens and staff. President Froh acknowledged that Métis people were passionate and would find ways to come together and move the MNO forward in a manner that all citizens would be proud of.

CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

The 28th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly, held September 18-19, 2021 concluded at 5:13 p.m. Senator Garry Laframboise offered a Closing Prayer.

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This is a true and correct copy of the 28th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held virtually on September 18-19, 2021 and incorporates any and all amendments made at the time of adoption.

Jo Anne Young, Secretary-Treasurer

Hank Rowlinson, Chair

Acronym List

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

AGA	Annual General Assembly
AGM	Annual General Meeting
CMHC	Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation
COTH	Captains of the Hunt
CR	Community Relations
CYFS	Child, Youth and Family Services
ELCC	Early Learning and Child Care
HIP	Home Improvement Program
ICES	International Credential Evaluation Service
IGR	Intergovernmental Relations
LFMO	Les Femme Michif Otipemisiwak
LRC	Lands, Resources and Consultation
MGRSA	Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement
MII	Métis Infinity Investments
MMIWG	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
MNA	Métis Nation of Alberta
MNBC	Métis Nation British Columbia
MNC	Métis National Council
MNO	Métis Nation of Ontario
MNOCC	Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission
MNOVC	Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran's Council
MNOWC	Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council
MNOYC	Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council
MN-S	Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
MRAF	Métis Rights Advancement Fund
MVDF	Métis Voyageur Development Fund
NRF	New Relationship Fund

NWOMC	Northwestern Ontario Métis Community
PCMNO	Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario
PST	Pape Salter Teillet
RECE	Registered Early Childhood Educators
RIA	Regional Implementation Agreement
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

List of Reference Materials

The following reference materials were available to the participants at the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held virtually on September 18-19, 2021:

The following items were provided under the DOCUMENTS tab of the AGA online platform:

- How to Participate
- MNO Standing Rules AGA
- Sponsors List
- PCMNO Welcome Letter
- Written Message from Acting MNBC President
- Written Message from LFMO President
- Breakout Rooms
- 2021 AGA Agenda
- 2020 AGA Minutes
- Decisions and Actions List
- Audited Financial Statements
- MVDF Presentation from TD Wealth
- MVDF Presentation from T.E. Wealth
- Brian Black – MNO Self-Government and MGRSA Implementation
- Brian Black – Registry Review.

The following items were posted online at www.mnoaga.ca:

- Administrative Reports:
 - o Region 1
 - o Region 2
 - o Region 4
 - o Region 5
 - o Region 6
 - o Region 7
 - o Region 8
 - o Region 9 (video)
 - o PCMNO Youth Representative
 - o PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative
 - o PCMNO Executive Senator Rene Gravelle (video)
 - o MNO Women's Council (PDF and video)
 - o Captains of the Hunt (PDF and video)
 - o MNO Youth Council (video)
- Reference Documents:
 - o Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose (English and French)
 - o MNO Bylaws
 - o Métis Rules of Order
 - o MNO Electoral Code Part A
 - o MNO Electoral Code Part B
 - o MNO Elections Report and Recommendations (2020)
 - o MNO Secretarial Incorporation (1994)

- The MNO Secretariat Act
- MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation
- MNO-Canada Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community
- Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement
- Understanding the Self-Government Regional Implementation Agreements
- MGRSA Implementation Agreement with the (Métis Community)
- MGRSA Implementation Agreement with (MNO Region)
- Métis Government Recognition in Ontario at Last (with timeline and FAQ)
- MNO Registry Policy (August 2019)
- MNO Registry Review Process Upheld
- Harvesting:
 - MNO-MNRF Framework Agreement on Harvesting 2018
 - Plainspeak document including an FAQ explaining the Agreement
- Economic Development:
 - MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law (August 2015)
 - MNO Policy on Local and Regional Opportunities on Business Opportunities (November 2015)
- Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission:
 - MNO Cultural Commission By-Laws
- AGA Business:
 - MNO AGA 2020 Draft Minutes
 - MNO AGA 2020 Record of Resolutions
 - Process for Conducting Ordinary and Special Resolutions at a General Assembly
- Other Links:
 - MNO Standing Rules
 - Help Desk Number: 1-613-798-1488, Ext. 111 or 110