

**2022 MNO AGA Resolution No. AGA220820-02**  
**Next Steps in Registry Review Process**

**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 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.

**MOVED (Tim Sinclair) and SECONDED (Rene Gravelle)**

**RESOLVED (AGA220820-02)**  
(188 in favour; 29 opposed; 6 abstentions)