

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF VOTE: PROVINCE-WIDE PLEBISCITE ON NEXT STEPS RELATED TO THE REGISTRY REVIEW

November 18, 2022

To: Citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”)

From: Office of the Chief Electoral Officer for the Plebiscite

Re: Notice of Vote – Province-Wide Plebiscite on Next Steps Related to the Registry Review

Consistent with Resolution No. AGA220820-02 adopted by the 2022 MNO Annual General Assembly, a province-wide plebiscite vote (“**Plebiscite**”) has been called, that will give all MNO citizens an opportunity to have their voice heard by voting either “Yes” or “No” on the following Ballot 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?

PLEBISCITE VOTING PERIOD:

December 8, 2022 at 8:30am (ET) to January 22, 2023 at 6:00pm (ET)

VOTING DAY:

The voting date (i.e. final day to cast a vote) will be January 22, 2023 at 6:00pm (ET)

VOTER ELIGIBILITY: All registered MNO citizens – irrespective of their citizenship file status – who are sixteen (16) years of age or older, and not subject to voting limitations under the MNO Bylaws, are eligible to vote in the Plebiscite.

VOTING METHODS: Voters may vote in the Plebiscite by either mail-in paper ballot, electronically, or by telephone. Information packages with detailed instructions on the various voting methods will be mailed out to the home addresses of registered MNO citizens, as provided to the MNO Registry. Voters may also contact the Chief Electoral Office up until January 12, 2023 to request a mail-in Paper Ballot and/or PIN for Telephone or Electronic Voting if the Voter did not receive or lost the original information package.

- **Mail-in Paper Ballots:** Paper Ballots and instructions will be included in the information package mailed out to Voters. Paper Ballots may be delivered to the Chief Electoral Officer by mail, courier, or hand delivery, and must be received by the Chief Electoral Officer no later than **6:00pm (ET) on January 22, 2023**.
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- **Electronic Voting:** Electronic voting will commence on December 8, 2022 at 8:30AM (ET) and it will close **January 22, 2023 at 6:00PM (ET)**. If you wish to vote electronically, click the link below and then click the red “Sign Up with OneFeather” or “Vote with OneFeather” button and follow the instructions provided. You will be required to provide a personal email and verify your identity in order to vote electronically. You will be guided through the step-by-step process. Visit this link to get started: <https://www.onefeather.ca/nations/mno>
- **Telephone Voting:** Instructions for telephone voting will be included in the packages mailed to Voters. Telephone voting will commence on December 8, 2022 at 8:30AM (ET) and it will close **January 22, 2023 at 6:00PM (ET)**. If you wish to vote by telephone please follow the telephone voting instructions provided separately or visit <https://www.onefeather.ca/nations/mno> for more information.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER: Paul DeVillers has been appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer responsible for overseeing the conduct of the Plebiscite in accordance with the [MNO Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote Guidelines](#). The Chief Electoral Officer can be contacted by phone at 1-800-263-4889 ext 344 and via email at plebiscite@metisnation.org.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- For further information on the Plebiscite, including background and context on the MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Review (“**RSRP**” or “**Registry Review**”), please visit: <https://www.metisnation.org/registry/registry-review-report/plebiscite-on-citizenship-requirements/>.
- Any questions or requests for further information, support, or assistance concerning the Plebiscite process may be directed to the Chief Electoral Officer, Paul DeVillers, by phone at 1-800-263-4889 ext. 344 (toll-free) or by email at plebiscite@metisnation.org.
- Questions specific to the status of your MNO citizenship file, including questions about how to complete your file, should be directed to the MNO Registry Team via phone at 1-855-798-1006 (toll free) or 613-798-1006 (local number), or email at info@mnoregistry.ca.
- To update your contact information with the MNO Registry, please visit: <https://www.metisnation.org/registry/update-your-information/>.

INFORMATION BULLETIN:

MNO PROVINCE-WIDE PLEBISCITE ON NEXT STEPS RELATED TO THE REGISTRY REVIEW

In August 2022, the MNO Annual General Assembly ("**AGA**") passed resolution AGA220820-02 (copy enclosed) directing the MNO, to among other things, conduct a province-wide vote ("**Plebiscite**") in Fall/Winter 2022 on the following Ballot Question related to implementing the results of the MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Review ("**Registry Review**"): **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?**

In early November 2022, and further to the AGA's direction, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario ("**PCMNO**") passed a resolution confirming the particulars of the province-wide Plebiscite vote, including the appointment of a Chief Electoral Officer and the adoption of the "MNO Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote Guidelines" ("**Guidelines**") to govern the conduct of the Plebiscite.

As further outlined in the enclosed materials and resources listed below, all registered MNO citizens - irrespective of their citizenship file status - who are sixteen (16) years of age or older, and not subject to voting limitations under the MNO Bylaws, are eligible to vote in the Plebiscite. Voters may vote in the Plebiscite by either mail-in paper ballot, electronically, or by telephone as per the instructions detailed in the Notice of Vote (enclosed) and included in this package.

VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN:

DECEMBER 8, 2022 @ 8:30AM ET

& JANUARY 22, 2023 @ 6PM ET

As per the AGA resolution, the Plebiscite will be approved if over fifty (50) percent of all Voters who participate in the Plebiscite vote “Yes” to the Ballot Question. No MNO citizen, however, will automatically lose their MNO citizenship as a result of the Plebiscite. Consistent with the AGA’s direction, the MNO’s requirements, and feedback from MNO citizens during the province-wide consultations, additional steps may be needed to implement the results of the Plebiscite.

Given the importance of the question at issue, the determination on next steps related to the Registry Review is being placed in the hands of our citizens. The MNO encourages all citizens to get informed, educate themselves, and have their voice heard through the Plebiscite process.

Additional information on the Registry Review, province-wide consultation process, and Plebiscite—including copies of relevant resolutions and reports—is available on the MNO’s website at the following links:

- **Registry Review Launch & Updates:** www.metisnation.org/news/rsrp-1
- **Registry Review Final Report:** www.metisnation.org/registry/registry-review-report
- **Registry Review Province-Wide Consultations, Supplemental Reports & Updated Statistics:** www.metisnation.org/registry/registry-review-report/metis-nation-of-ontario-releases-what-we-heard-report-from-province-wide-consultations-on-registry-review
- **Province-Wide Plebiscite Webpage:** www.metisnation.org/registry/registry-review-report/plebiscite-on-citizenship-requirements

Requests for further information, support, or assistance, can be directed as follows:

- **Plebiscite Process Related Inquiries:** Chief Electoral Officer, Paul DeVillers, by phone at **1-800-263-4889 ext. 344** (toll-free) or by email at plebiscite@metisnation.org
- **Technical Voting Assistance Requests:** OneFeather by phone at **1-855-923-3006** (toll-free) or at **250-384-8200**, or by email at support@onefeather.ca
- **Citizenship File Inquires (including how to complete your file):** MNO Registry Team via phone at **1-855-798-1006** (toll free) or **613-798-1006** (local number), or email at info@mnoregistry.ca

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)

Métis Nation of Ontario – Registry Review Plebiscite

ELECTRONIC / PHONE / MAIL IN BALLOT VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Voter:

This document provides instructions to vote electronically or by phone or by mail in Ballot. Read the instructions carefully and fully BEFORE completing your vote. You may vote in this election electronically, by Mail-In Ballot or by telephone. You may only vote once in this plebiscite.

IF YOU WISH TO VOTE ELECTRONICALLY

If you wish to vote electronically, click the link below and then click the red “Sign Up with OneFeather” or “Vote with OneFeather” button and follow the instructions provided. You will be required to provide a active current personal email and verify your identity in order to vote electronically. You will be guided through the step-by-step process.

Visit this link to VOTE electronically: <https://www.onefeather.ca/nations/mno>

IF YOU WISH TO VOTE BY PHONE

Voting by Phone is 2-Step process. You must obtain your PIN first and then you can vote by phone. If you wish to vote by Phone please call the toll free number below to obtain your PIN. You will be required to provide your Citizenship Number and Date of Birth.

Step 1 – Call 1 855 923-3006 (toll free) and listen carefully to prompt options. Select the option to get your PIN. Be ready to write your PIN down. Hang up.

Step 2 – Call 1 855 923-3006 (toll free) and listen carefully to prompt options. Select the option to Vote by Phone. Voting by phone can take up to 15 mins. Listen carefully to the instructions provided. You will be guided through the phone voting process.

IF YOU WISH TO VOTE BY MAIL-IN BALLOT

If you wish to Vote by Mail-In Ballot follow these instructions. Set aside the Ballot, and all the envelopes provided. Please read these instructions first, and then proceed to completing each step to complete your Mail-In Ballot.

1. **BALLOT** - Place a mark “X” in the space provided on the BALLOT to the right of the choice you wish to select – **Select only ONE (1) option.**
2. Fold the BALLOT in such a manner that it will fit in the "BALLOT ONLY" envelope – seal this envelope.
3. Complete and sign the “MAIL-IN BALLOT – VOTER IDENTIFICATION FORM” envelope in the presence of a witness at least 18 years of age. The Witness must also sign, date, and complete their Section.
4. Place the sealed "BALLOT" envelope inside the sealed “MAIL-IN BALLOT – VOTER IDENTIFICATION FORM” envelope.
5. Place the sealed “MAIL-IN BALLOT – VOTER IDENTIFICATION FORM” envelope inside the postage pre-paid and pre-addressed envelope to the Electoral Officer.
6. Very Important – **Mail immediately.**

MAIL-IN BALLOTS RECEIVED AFTER THE CLOSE OF POLLS WILL NOT BE OPENED, COUNTED OR OTHERWISE RECORDED.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO REGISTRY REVIEW PLEBISCITE VOTE

The following question will be asked of all eligible voters:

“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?”

OFFICIAL BALLOT

PLACE A MARK (X) IN THE SPACE PROVIDED ON THE BALLOT TO THE RIGHT OF THE CHOICE YOU WISH TO SELECT –
SELECT ONLY ONE (1). NO OTHER WRITING OR MARKING MAY BE ON THE BALLOT.

YES



NO





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ONEFEATHER MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES LTD
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VICTORIA BC V8W 9Z9

MNO

MAIL-IN BALLOT – VOTER IDENTIFICATION FORM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED IN FULL BY THE VOTER - INCOMPLETE SUBMISSION MAY BE REJECTED.

VOTER NAME:

CITIZENSHIP #:

DATE

REGION

SIGNATURE

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE WITNESS (A PERSON 18 YEARS OR OLDER)

WITNESS DECLARATION - I HAVE WITNESSED THE VOTER SIGNATURE ABOVE:

NAME OF WITNESS (PRINT)

PHONE OR EMAIL

SIGNATURE

BALLOT ONLY

(PLACE ONLY THE BALLOT IN THIS "SECRECY" ENVELOPE)