

March 3, 2023

Métis Nation of Ontario Chief Electoral Officer Report: Province-Wide Plebiscite Conduct & Results

This report is being provided to the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) in accordance with section 19 of the “MNO Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote Guidelines” (“**Guidelines**”). It contains information required under that section as well as general information specific to the Chief Electoral Officer’s (“**CEO**”) roles and responsibilities related to the Plebiscite.¹

Background & Context

1. In August 2022, the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly (“**MNO AGA**”) passed resolution AGA220820-02 directing the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario to call a province-wide Plebiscite 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?

2. In early November 2022, the PCMNO passed a resolution that adopted the Guidelines and appointed me as the CEO in accordance with section 3.1 and 5.1 of the Guidelines. The resolution also set the Voting Period (i.e., originally from December 8, 2022 to January 22, 2023) as well as confirmed the above Ballot Question and available voting platforms (i.e., telephone, electronic, and mail), among other things.
3. Pursuant to the CEO’s authority under section 3.5 of the Guidelines, I appointed Lawrence Lewis of One Feather as Deputy Electoral Officer and delegated to him specific duties (Schedule 1).
4. Both I (Schedule 2) and the Deputy Electoral Officer (Schedule 3) executed an Oath of Office as required by sections 3.2 and 3.5(a) of the Guidelines, respectively.

Calling the Plebiscite & Information to Voters

5. On November 18, 2022, a Notice of Vote (Schedule 4) was posted on the MNO’s website in accordance with the timing and content requirements under sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the Guidelines. A copy of the Notice of Vote was also included in the information packages mailed out to all Voters (“**Voter Information Packages**”) as required by section 7.1 of the Guidelines (Schedule 5).

¹ Unless otherwise stated, capitalized terms in this report have the same meaning as defined in the “MNO Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote Guidelines.”

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11. Voter Information Packages were mailed out to all Voters with a current residential address on file with the MNO Registry, as per section 11.1 of the Guidelines. As noted below, the Voting Period was extended to allow for the delivery of 10,336 of these Voter Information Packages, which was initially delayed due to an administrative issue that was later corrected.
12. A copy of the Voter Information Package was also made publicly available on the MNO's website.
13. During the Plebiscite, the MNO provided key information and updates to Voters by telephone, SMS/Text message, email, and online information sessions in accordance with sections 7.1 and 7.2 of the Guidelines.

Voting Period Extension

14. On January 11, 2023, I was informed by the Deputy Electoral Officer that a total of 10,336 eligible Voters were not mailed their Voter Information Packages in December 2022, due to an administrative issue. As soon as this error was discovered, these Voter Information Packages were mailed to impacted Voters.
15. On January 12, 2023, I exercised my authority under section 17 of the Guidelines to extend the Voting Period by five weeks in order to ensure Voters' ability to cast a Ballot was not adversely impacted by the above-noted administrative issue (Schedule 6).
16. For clarity, the original Voting Period was scheduled to run from December 8, 2022 until January 22, 2023. With the extension, the last day (i.e., Voting Day) was changed to February 28, 2023, allowing for an 82-day Voting Period in total.

Voting in the Plebiscite

17. In accordance with sections 9.1 and 9.2 of the Guidelines, a Voters List was certified on November 24, 2022, with any subsequent amendments due to changes in eligibility being verified on an ongoing basis.
18. A total of 27,805 MNO citizens were eligible to vote in the Plebiscite.² These individuals (i.e., Voters) satisfied the eligibility criteria in section 4.1 of the Guidelines, which required that they be: registered as MNO citizens, at least 16 years of age or older, and not subject to any voting limitations under the MNO Bylaws.
19. Voters could vote by telephone, electronic, or mail-in Ballot, but were only permitted to vote once on the Ballot Question, in accordance with section 4.2 of the Guidelines (see below information regarding rejected Ballots).

² As of March 1, 2023, the total number of MNO citizens registered with the MNO Registry was 31,259, meaning that approximately 89% of MNO citizens were eligible to vote in the Plebiscite.

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20. All voting was conducted in accordance with the requirements in sections 10-11 of the Guidelines.

Plebiscite Results

21. A total of 8,270 Voters voted in the Plebiscite with:

- a. 71% (5,898 Voters) voting “yes” to the Ballot Question, indicating support for the removal of “Incomplete” files from the MNO Registry;
- b. 28% (2,352 Voters) voting “no” to the Ballot Question, indicating support for “Incomplete” files remaining on the MNO Registry; and
- c. 20 Ballots being deemed as rejected/spoiled in accordance with section 14.1 of the Guidelines (i.e., no option marked, both options marked, mark identifying Voter, Ballot defaced or marked inappropriately, unclear choice, or Ballot not in original form) (Schedule 7).

22. In addition, a total of 401 mail-in Paper Ballots were rejected and not included in the final vote count referenced above, as they were deemed invalid for the following reasons:

Type	Total
Already Voted	97
Missing Voter Declaration	32
Missing Signature	31
Missing Witness	148
Missing MNO Citizenship Number	79
Incorrect MNO Citizenship Number	12
Other	2

23. All Ballots were counted in accordance with section 14.2 of the Guidelines.

24. An Official Count Declaration (Schedule 8) for mail-in Paper Ballots was completed by the Deputy Electoral Officer who was responsible for sending out and receiving mail-in Paper Ballots (Schedule 9). Additional declarations were also provided by the Deputy Electoral Officer at the start of the poll, end of the poll, and start of the count (Schedules 10-12).

25. Additional details on the various voting platforms was also provided by the Deputy Electoral Officer (Schedule 13), as per section 19.1(c) of the Guidelines.

26. Following the conclusion of the Plebiscite, I prepared a Certification confirming the Plebiscite results, as required under section 14.3 of the Guidelines (Schedule 14).

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27. Following the conclusion of the Plebiscite, I issued a notice confirming the Plebiscite results that was posted on the MNO's website and emailed to all MNO citizens (Schedule 15).

All of the above is submitted this 3rd day of March 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul DeVillers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Paul DeVillers, MNO Plebiscite Chief Electoral Officer

Subject: Appointment as Deputy Electoral Officer for MNO Plebiscite

From: Paul DeVillers <pauldevillers@rogers.com>

Date: 2022-11-17, 2:53 p.m.

To: Lawrence <Lawrence@onefeather.ca>

Hello Lawrence,

Further to our discussions this will confirm your appointment as a Deputy Electoral Officer y Review pursuant to article 3.5 of the MNO Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote Guidelines.

Article 3.5 permits the Chief Electoral Officer to delegate any of the duties set out in the Guidelines to a Deputy Electoral Officer. I hereby delegate to you all duties with regard to the conduct of the Electronic, Telephone and Mail-in voting including the counting of these votes and the preparation of the required reports following the vote.

Article 3.5 (a) requires each Deputy Electoral Officer to execute an Oath of Office which is attached to the Guidelines as Appendix D. Please complete and forward this Oath of Office to me at your convenience.

Thank You

Paul DeVillers, Plebiscite Chief Electoral Officer

Appendix D – Oath of Office

I, Paul DeWalters (name), having been appointed as ["Chief Electoral Officer" or "Deputy Electoral Officer"] for the Métis Nation of Ontario ("MNO") Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote ("Plebiscite") scheduled to occur from [date] to [date] hereby swear and solemnly affirm:

- (e) That I will act faithfully in this capacity without partiality, fear, favour, or affection;
- (f) That I will abide by and effect the Plebiscite as prescribed in the MNO Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote Guidelines;
- (g) That I will declare conflicts of interest if and as they arise; and finally,
- (h) That I will not do or say anything that will compromise my integrity or the integrity of the Plebiscite.

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force as if made under oath and by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*.

Declared before me at the OTTAWA in the Province of Ontario, this 7th day of Dec 2022.

[Signature]
Commissioner for Taking Oaths in and for the Province of Ontario.
M. Chambers

[Signature]
[Name], ["Chief Electoral Officer" or "Deputy Electoral Officer"]

Appendix D – Oath of Office

I, Lawrence Lewis (name), having been appointed as ["Chief Electoral Officer" or "Deputy Electoral Officer"] for the Métis Nation of Ontario ("MNO") Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote ("Plebiscite") scheduled to occur from [date] to [date] hereby swear and solemnly affirm:

- (e) That I will act faithfully in this capacity without partiality, fear, favour, or affection;
- (f) That I will abide by and effect the Plebiscite as prescribed in the MNO Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote Guidelines;
- (g) That I will declare conflicts of interest if and as they arise; and finally,
- (h) That I will not do or say anything that will compromise my integrity or the integrity of the Plebiscite.

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force as if made under oath and by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*.

Declared before me at the CITY OF VICTORIA in the Province of)
Ontario, this 22 day of NOV 2022.)

BC)
Sarah McInroy)
2022-0292)
Commissioner for Taking Oaths in and for the)
Province of Ontario:)
BC

LAWRENCE LEWIS
[Name], ["Chief Electoral Officer" or
"Deputy Electoral Officer"]

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**.
-

- **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/>.

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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/>.
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- 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

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 Schedule "5"

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 Schedule "5" 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





1000439462-V8W1H8-BR01



ONEFEATHER MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES LTD
ATTN ELECTORAL OFFICER
209-852 FORT ST
VICTORIA BC V8W 9Z9

MNO

MAIL-IN BALLOT – VOTER IDENTIFICATION FORM **Schedule "5"**

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

Schedule "5"

BALLOT ONLY

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

HOME > NEWS & EVENTS > UPDATE: VOTING PERIOD IN ...

UPDATE: Voting period in MNO province-wide Plebiscite extended to February 28

Posted on [January 12, 2023](#)

NOTICE: Voting period in MNO province-wide Plebiscite extended to February 28, 2023

As the appointed Chief Electoral Officer ("CEO") for the Métis Nation of Ontario's ("MNO") ongoing MNO Registry Review province-wide Plebiscite ("Plebiscite"), I have decided to exercise my authority under section 17 of the [MNO Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote Guidelines](#) ("Guidelines") to extend the Voting Day for the Plebiscite to February 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. ET. This effectively extends the Voting Period for the Plebiscite by an additional five (5) weeks. A chart with updated timelines for the Plebiscite is [available here](#).

I have made this decision after being informed by OneFeather (the independent third-party firm facilitating voting across the various voting platforms) that, due to an administrative issue, a total of 10,336 eligible Voters were not mailed their voter information packages, as required by section 7.1 of the Guidelines, in December 2022. OneFeather informed me of this administrative issue on January 11, 2023. It has also informed me that all of these voter information packages will be mailed to affected Voters by the beginning of next week.

In order to provide ample opportunity for these 10,336 eligible Voters to vote by mail-in Paper Ballot, the end of the Voting Period (i.e., the Voting Day) will be extended by five (5) weeks from the current date of January 22, 2023 to the new date of February 28, 2023. This extension provides sufficient time for the voter information packages to arrive by mail, for these individuals to vote by mail, and for their mail-in Paper Ballots to be returned via mail prior to the end of the extended Voting Period.

It is also important to emphasize that the Voting Period is extended for **all** mail-in Paper Ballots, as well as Ballots submitted by Telephone and Electronic Voting. So, if you have not yet voted by telephone or online, you are able to do so until February 28, 2023 at 6:00pm ET. Further, all mail-in Paper Ballots that are **received** by February 28, 2023 at 6:00pm ET will be counted. For more information on how to vote, please visit: www.metisnation.org/plebiscite or contact the office of the CEO directly at 1-800-263-4889 ext. 344 and via email at plebiscite@metisnation.org. For any technical issues related to voting please contact OneFeather's support line at 1-855-923-3006 and via email at support@onefeather.ca.

Yours truly,



Paul DeVillers
Chief Electoral Officer

Métis Nation of Ontario
Official Count Declaration – Plebiscite Vote

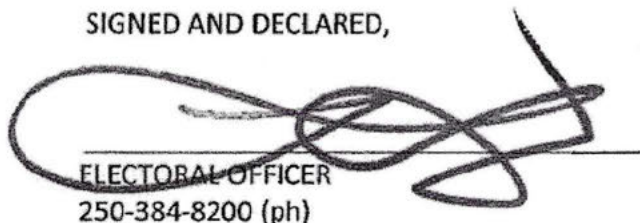
VICTORIA, BC

28 February 2023

This document declares and confirms the Official Ballot Count of ALL Ballots properly recorded for the Métis Nation of Ontario Registry Review Plebiscite Vote immediately following the close of Polls.

	TOTAL
TOTAL BALLOTS CAST	8270
	TOTAL
SPOILED/REJECTED BALLOTS	20
<u>INDIVIDUAL BALLOT COUNTS</u>	
YES	5898
NO	2352

SIGNED AND DECLARED,


 ELECTORAL OFFICER
 250-384-8200 (ph)



OneFeather

Appendix F – Official Count Declaration for Mail-In Paper Ballots

This document declares and confirms the official ballot count for mail-in Paper Ballots is properly recorded in the matter of the MNO Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote following the closure of the Voting Period.

	Totals
Mail-In Ballots Received	2498 2498
Spoiled Ballots	12
Ballots Cast "Yes"	1703
Ballots Cast "No"	719

SIGNED AND DECLARED,

Paul McVellan

Signature of Chief Electoral Officer

March 3, 2023

Date

METIS NATION OF ONTARIA

Appendix E - Mail-In Paper Ballot Declaration Form

CANADA
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

I, Lawrence Lewis, Deputy Electoral Officer for the Metis Nation of Ontario ("MNO") Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote ("Plebiscite"), in the Province of Ontario, DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

- 1. I was personally responsible for receiving all mail-in ballots for the Plebiscite.
- 2. In preparation for depositing mail-in ballots, I opened ballot box number _#MIB.
- 3. I saw that the ballot box was empty and asked two witnesses who were present to witness that the ballot box was empty.
- 4. I then properly sealed the ballot box, in front of at least two witnesses who were present, and prepared it for the reception of ballot papers.

Mallon Kryklywyj
Witness Name

250-217-0351
Phone


Heather McMaster
Witness Name


778-678-6798
Phone

- 5. I personally deposited all of the mail-in ballots received by me into ballot box _#MIB without opening the secrecy envelope and kept the ballot box sealed when not in my custody until the ballots were counted.

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*.

Declared before me at Victoria, in the Province of British Columbia, this 28 day of February 2023.


Sarah McIlroy 2022-0292

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)
)
)
)

)
)
)
)
)

Lawrence Lewis, DEO

Commissioner for Taking Oaths in and for the Province of British Columbia

Victoria, BC – OneFeather Office

Metis Nation of Ontario

Empty Ballot Box Declaration – Start of Regular Poll

February 28, 2023

This document declares and confirms that the parties below examined the Ballot Box used for the Mail-in Ballots located at the OneFeather Office, in the matter of the 2023 MNO Registry Review Plebiscite Vote.

The Ballot Box was inspected and found to be empty, and I was witness that the Ballot Box was immediately properly closed and sealed and made available for use in our presence by the Deputy Electoral Officer. I am confident that the Ballot Box cannot be opened without the seals being broken.

Witnesses:

1. Heather McMaster
Print Full Legal Name

Heather McMaster
Signature of Witness

2. DARRICK MARSHALL
Print Full Legal Name

[Signature]
Signature of Witness

Also signed and declared by the Electoral Officer:

[Signature]
Print Full Legal Name

[Signature]
Signature of Electoral Officer

Victoria, BC – OneFeather Office

Metis Nation of Ontario

Sealed Ballot Box Declaration – End of Regular Poll

February 28, 2023

This document declares and confirms that the parties below examined the Ballot Box used for the Mail-in Ballots located at the OneFeather Office, in the matter of the 2023 MNO Registry Review Plebiscite Vote.

The Ballot Box was inspected and found to be properly sealed by the Electoral Officer immediately following the close of polls, and no one was permitted to vote after the close of polls.

Witnesses:

1. Mallory Kykhyunij
Print Full Legal Name

[Signature]
Signature of Witness

2. Heather McMaster
Print Full Legal Name

[Signature]
Signature of Witness

Also signed and declared by the Electoral Officer:

[Signature]
Print Full Legal Name

[Signature]
Signature of Electoral Officer

Victoria, BC – OneFeather Office
Metis Nation of Ontario
Empty Ballot Box Declaration – Start of Count

February 28, 2023

This document declares and confirms that the parties below examined the Ballot Box used for the Mail-in Ballots located at the OneFeather Office, in the matter of the 2023 MNO Registry Review Plebiscite Vote.

I further declare that the Ballot Box was then opened in our presence and ALL the ballots were removed by the Electoral Officer, and that I was allowed to inspect and confirm that ALL ballots were removed from the Ballot Box. The Electoral Officer then prepared for counting ALL the ballots, and at no time were the ballots left unattended by the Electoral Officer.

Witnesses:

1. Malloy Kogkwyj
Print Full Legal Name

[Signature]
Signature of Witness

2. Heather McMaster
Print Full Legal Name

[Signature]
Signature of Witness

Also signed and declared by the Electoral Officer:

[Signature]
Print Full Legal Name

[Signature]
Signature of Electoral Officer

Subject: RE: MNO Breakdown of Reject MIB packages

From: Lawrence Lewis <Lawrence@onefeather.ca>

Date: 2023-02-28, 11:36 p.m.

To: Brian Tucker <BrianT@metisnation.org>, DEVILLERS <pauldevillers@rogers.com>

CC: Lawrence Lewis <Lawrence@onefeather.ca>, Mallory Kryklywyj <mallory@onefeather.ca>

Hi Brian – here are the final results along with paperwork (see attached).

Total voters: 8270 (29.74% showed)

Polling stations reporting: 1 of 1

Voting Method	Number of Ballots
In person ballots	0
Mail-in ballots	2493
Electronic ballots	5276
Telephone Ballots	501

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?”

Option	Mail In	Electronic	Phone	Total Votes
YES	1702	3860	336	5898
NO	779	1416	157	2352
Spoiled	12	0	8	20

I will send some additional statistics in the next couple days.

Chat tomorrow if you have any questions.

“No Declaration” means they did not return their vote with the voter declaration envelope (just a ballot – no idea from who).

Lawrence Lewis

CEO & Founder, OneFeather

Past President, Rotary Club of Downtown Victoria (Dist. 5020)

250-889-1582 (DL)

250-384-5416 (Fax)

lawrence@onefeather.ca

www.onefeather.ca



OneFeather

Appendix G – Certification by Chief Electoral Officer

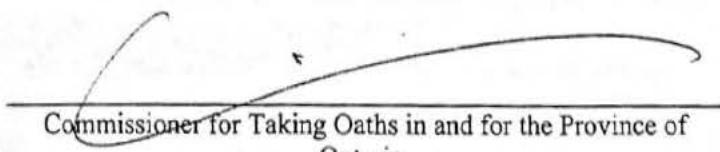
CANADA
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

I, Paul Devillers (name), Chief Electoral Officer for the Métis Nation of Ontario ("MNO")
Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote ("Plebiscite"), in the Province of Ontario, DO
SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

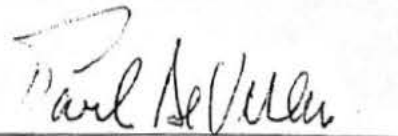
1. I was responsible for and oversaw all voting methods and procedures necessary to effect the Plebiscite in accordance with the MNO Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote Guidelines ("Guidelines").
2. A true copy of the Notice of Vote is attached as Exhibit "1" to this Declaration.
3. In accordance with the Guidelines, the Notice of Vote was posted at least 20 days prior to the beginning of the Voting Period.
4. The voting procedure was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines.
5. The results of the Plebiscite are as follows:
 - a. the names of 27,805 Voters appeared on the Voters List prepared pursuant to the Guidelines, and the number of Voters who were entitled to cast a vote was 27,805
 - b. 8270 ballots, including Telephone, Electronic, and Paper Ballots, were cast in the Plebiscite in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines;
 - c. 5898 ballots were marked "Yes";
 - d. 2352 ballots were marked "No";
 - e. 8 ballots were rejected in accordance with the Guidelines; and
 - f. 12 ballots were spoiled and were not counted in b. above in accordance with the Guidelines.
6. The proposed removal of MNO members/citizens whose files do not meet the current requirements for citizenship as set out in the MNO Bylaws and Registry Policy was [~~not supported~~ / supported] by the Voters.

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*.

Declared before me at the OTTAWA in the Province of
Ontario, this 1st day of MAR 2023.



Commissioner for Taking Oaths in and for the Province of
Ontario.
M. Chambers



[Name], Chief Electoral Officer

HOME > NEWS & EVENTS > MNO CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFI...

MNO Chief Electoral Officer announces results of Province-wide Plebiscite

Posted on [March 1, 2023](#)

On February 28, 2023, the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) concluded its province-wide plebiscite (“Plebiscite”) on next steps related to the Registry Review process, which was called in accordance with the 2022 Annual General Assembly’s (“AGA”) direction in [resolution AGA220820-02](#).

The Plebiscite was conducted over an 82-day period between December 8, 2022, and February 28, 2023. This Voting Period included a five-week extension under the [MNO Registry Review Province-Wide Plebiscite Vote Guidelines](#) (“Guidelines”) to remedy an administrative issue that temporarily impacted the distribution of voter information packages to 10,336 eligible Voters. Further information on that decision is [available here](#).

During the Plebiscite, all registered MNO citizens—irrespective of their citizenship file status—at least 16 years of age, and not subject to voting limitations under the MNO Bylaws, were eligible to cast one ballot 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?

27805 citizens were eligible to vote in the Plebiscite. A total of 8270 citizens cast their ballot by mail, telephone, or electronic voting, representing a 30% voter turnout rate—the highest for any province-wide vote in MNO history.

Of the votes cast 71% (5898 MNO citizens) voted “yes” to the Ballot Question, indicating support for the removal of “Incomplete” files from the MNO Registry. A total of 28% (2352 MNO citizens) voted “no” to the Ballot Question, indicating support for “Incomplete” files remaining on the MNO Registry.

In addition to the 8,270 counted ballots noted above, a total of 401 mail-in ballots were rejected due to an incomplete ballot package (e.g. missing signatures, no MNO citizenship number provided) or the MNO citizens had previously voted and had their first ballot already counted. 20 ballots were deemed spoiled. A detailed report on the Plebiscite, including a more comprehensive results breakdown, will be provided to the MNO by Friday, March 3, 2023, as per the requirements in the Guidelines.

Consistent with the Guidelines and the [extended timelines](#), any Voter who has reasonable grounds for believing that there was a material violation or irregularity in the course of the Plebiscite that fundamentally altered the final results, may file an objection for review and consideration by the CEO. Administrative errors, amendments to ensure the sanctity of the Plebiscite, and general disagreement with the Registry Review or Plebiscite are not eligible grounds for an objection. For further information, please see section 18 of the Guidelines. **Any objections must be received no later than 6:00pm (ET) on Friday, March 10, 2023** and can be submitted to the CEO by email: plebiscite@metisnation.org.

Additional information on next steps and timelines will be outlined in a further communique issued by the MNO.

Yours truly,



Paul DeVillers
Chief Electoral Officer