



To PCMNO, Community Councils, Advisory Councils & Working Groups
From Hank Rowlinson, MNO Chair
Date Friday, April 21, 2023
Subject **Update on Planning for Special Assembly in June 2023**

Background on Special Assembly

On March 8, 2023, the PCMNO passed resolution PC220308-09 confirming that a one-day, single-issue, special General Assembly (“**Special Assembly**”) would be held on:

Saturday, June 17, 2023 (9 AM – 4:30 PM EST)
Delta Airport Hotel (655 Dixon Rd)
Toronto, Ontario

It is important to emphasize that this Special Assembly has not yet been officially called by the PCMNO, but it will be formally called at the end of April in accordance with the notice requirements in the MNO Bylaws. Advance information is being provided to allow for planning.

This Special Assembly will be formally called by the PCMNO to follow through on the Registry Review process that was initiated 2017, the express direction of the [2022 MNO Annual General Assembly](#), and the recent province-wide [Plebiscite](#) where all citizens with both “Complete” and “Incomplete” citizenship files were provided an opportunity to vote.

Of the 8,270 citizens who cast their ballots in the Plebiscite, a clear majority (i.e., 5,898 citizens) cast their ballot to remove “Incomplete” citizenship files from the MNO Registry. This means that 71% of those that voted in the plebiscite want “Incomplete” citizenship files to be removed from the MNO Registry.

Consistent with this direction, a Special Assembly will be held for the sole purpose of voting on a special resolution to amend the MNO Bylaws and Registry Policy in order to provide for the removal of MNO citizens with “Incomplete” files from the MNO Registry.

As noted above, this memo, along with the MNO’s previous information update that set out the date and location of the Special Assembly, have been issued to ensure that everyone is aware of the date and location of the Special Assembly well in advance of the formal notice call so they can plan accordingly.

Attendance and Voting at the Special Assembly

As set out in the MNO Bylaws, all citizens are eligible to attend and vote at the Special Assembly, like they are for Annual Assemblies. This includes those citizens with “Complete” and “Incomplete” citizenship files.

As has been the MNO's practice since its creation, no proxy votes will be allowed (i.e., individuals being able to vote for other citizens who are not in attendance). Only citizens in physical attendance will be eligible to vote at this Special Assembly, as has been the MNO's practice over the last three decades and as the MNO Bylaws provide for.¹

While the MNO Bylaws were amended in 2022 to allow for potential virtual assembly participation in future, those amendments are clear that there needs to be "an effective, efficient, and verifiable technological means" to facilitate such participation and voting. To date, the MNO has not been able to identify such a platform and, as such, there will be no virtual attendance, participation, or voting options available for the Special Assembly.

Coverage of Travel, Per Diem & Accommodation Costs for the Special Assembly

As has also been the MNO's practice over the last 30 years, all citizens interested in attending MNO assemblies are responsible for covering their own costs for attending such assemblies.

Understandably, the MNO has covered costs associated with democratically elected leadership to attend assemblies, but the MNO has never covered the costs for all citizens to attend an assembly. In addition, the revolving locations of the MNO assemblies over the last three decades has always put some citizens and communities at a disadvantage because of the location selected. One of the reasons that a hotel by the Toronto airport was chosen for this Special Assembly was because of travel accessibility. This is also why additional funding is being provided to MNO Regions in the northern part of the province.

Given the significance of this Special Assembly, the MNO will cover travel, per diem, and accommodation costs for all individuals who are on the following MNO governance structures and institutions:

1. PCMNO
2. Community Councils
3. Senators
4. Captains of the Hunt
5. Veteran's Council
6. Women's Council
7. Youth Council
8. Two Spirit Working Group

If an elected or appointed official from one of the structures set out above is not able to or does not want to attend the Special Assembly, no alternates for that individual will be eligible to have their travel costs covered. Only the current democratically elected or appointed individuals on these MNO governance structures or institutions will have their travel costs covered.

¹ While virtual participation was permitted during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 and 2021 MNO AGAs were restricted to essential business matters only (i.e., the approval of minutes and audited financial statements), and no ordinary or special resolutions were considered. Similarly, while the 2022 MNO AGA allowed for virtual observation by citizens, those citizens were not able to speak to or vote on any resolutions.

Again, given the significance of this Special Assembly, and the reality that many citizens from northern regions in the province are unable to simply drive to Toronto for the day to attend this Special Assembly, it has been decided that the MNO will also cover the travel, per diem, and accommodation costs for twenty (20) citizens from each MNO Region (over and above covering the costs for elected and appointed leadership).

These citizen attendees will be selected by each MNO Regional Councilor, after consulting with the Community Councils in their respective Region. A final list of these 20 citizens, signed off by the MNO Regional Councilor, should be provided to the MNO by end of day on Monday, May 15, 2023, so travel bookings can begin to be made.

In addition, in order to support each MNO Regional Councilor's consultation with Community Councils on this issue and for each MNO Region to work to inform citizens about the Special Assembly, a financial transfer will be provided to each MNO Region in the near future to either be administered through a regional bank account or by a Community Council on behalf of each MNO Region. Given the higher costs for citizens travelling from northern regions to the Special Assembly, MNO Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4 will be each be provided a financial transfer in the amount of \$17,500.00, and MNO Regions 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 will each be provided financial transfers in the amount of \$10,000.00.

This funding can be used by each MNO Region, at its discretion, to undertake the activities set out above as well as potentially identify ways for additional MNO citizens from each MNO Region to attend the Special Assembly. This funding is to be used at the discretion of each MNO Region, at the direction of the MNO Regional Councilor based on consultation with MNO Community Councils in their Region.

COVID Protocols

Given the current state of COVID-19 and the expected attendance of vulnerable individuals at the Special Assembly such as the elderly, all individuals attending the Special Assembly must complete an on-site COVID-19 rapid test (and have a negative result). Any attendees who refuse to take an on-site COVID-19 rapid test (and does not have a negative result) will not be allowed inside the room where the Special Assembly will be held and will be unable to vote at the Special Assembly. These requirements are subject to change depending on the state of COVID-19 at the time of the Special Assembly and/or future changes to the MNO's COVID-19 policies and procedures.

Agenda and Special Resolution

The agenda, special resolution, and other details related to the Special Assembly will be provided at the end of April when the Special Assembly is formally called. Please check the [MNO website](#) for updates.

MNO Contact for Special Assembly

For questions or more information related to the details set out in this memo, please contact the MNO's Events & Conference Specialist, Nina Newman at NinaN@metisnation.org or (343) 596-6433. General questions related to the Special Assembly can be directed to specialassembly@metisnation.org.