

AGA2022

THE 29TH MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY • AUGUST 19-21, 2022

2022 MINUTES

Minutes of the 29th Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) held August 19-21, 2022, at the Intercontinental Toronto Centre Hotel, 255 Front Street W., Toronto, Ontario, prepared by Jana Anderson, Recording Secretary.

DAY ONE – August 19, 2022

MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY – OPENING CEREMONIES

The 29th MNO AGA commenced with the Colour Guard led by Métis Fiddler Alicia Blore. The Grand Entry and Procession of dignitaries included Métis Veterans, Senators, and members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC), and Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC).

ANTHEMS

Leah Belle sang "O Canada", and Amanda Rheame sang "We Aspire".

OPENING REMARKS

Hank Rowlinson, Chair, PCMNO

Chair Rowlinson called the AGA to order at 8:54 a.m., acknowledged the traditional territory of the many Nations the meeting was being held in. He recognized that the territory welcome was offered by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Chief, Stacey Laforme, after the Canoe Arrival at Olympic Island on Thursday, August 18, 2022.

Suzanne Brunelle, Senator, Toronto and York Region Métis Council

Senator Brunelle acknowledged the traditional territories and lands of the many nations the meeting was being held in, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, Anishinaabeg, Chippewa, Haudenosaunee and Wendat people. The Senator noted that the Toronto area is home to many First Nation, Inuit and Métis people and is covered by Treaty 13.

OPENING PRAYER

PCMNO Executive Senator Gravelle offered an Opening Prayer.

Sharon Cadeau, Vice-Chair, PCMNO

Vice-Chair Cadeau welcomed delegates and reviewed the safety protocols in place throughout the AGA. The Assembly was referred to the AGA meeting package which contains information on the trade show.

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.

¹ Included in the [PCMNO Welcome Letter on www.mnoaga.ca](http://www.mnoaga.ca)

WELCOMING REMARKS FROM DIGNITARIES AND GUESTS

Shirley Debassige, President, Toronto and York Region Métis Council and

Debra Keaney, President, Credit River Region Métis Council

Council President Debassige welcomed delegates and extended greetings on behalf of the host Community Councils: Toronto and York Region, Credit River and Oshawa Durham Region. Honest, truthful, and respectful discussions and debate were encouraged throughout the AGA and delegates were invited to enjoy the many attractions throughout the City of Toronto.

Cassidy Caron, President, Métis National Council (MNC)

MNC President Caron recognized the Grand Entry, Opening Prayer and land acknowledgments and extended appreciation to the host Community Councils, MNOYC, and MNO leaders and citizens for the opportunity to attend the MNOYC Conference and MNO AGA. MNC President Caron commented on the importance of gatherings to build relationships, share stories, and ensure the voices of citizens are heard in the business and governance of the MNO.

The MNC President offered best wishes for the meeting's deliberations, noting she looked forward to working with Métis citizens to continue building the Métis Nation.

Lissa Smith, President, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC)

MNBC President Smith extended greetings on behalf of the MNBC, acknowledged the Veterans and Senators for the Grand Entry and Opening Prayer and expressed appreciation for the invitation to participate in the Grand Entry and Canoe Arrival at Olympic Island. The role of the annual assembly, as the heart of Métis governments, led by the voices of the grassroots citizens was acknowledged. The MNBC President confirmed she was looking forward to the presentation on Métis self-government, and moving forward together, in a united, accountable and transparent way.

Audrey Poitras, President, Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA)

MNA President Poitras extended greetings on behalf of the MNA, acknowledged Veterans, Senators, Elders, Métis leaders, youth, families, and friends attending and expressed thanks for the opportunity to attend the MNO AGA. The last few years have been rewarding, with the MNA, MNO and Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN-S), each signing their respective Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement (MGRSA). Métis citizens were encouraged to visit the MNA's new gathering centre, the Métis Crossing in Alberta. MNA President Poitras confirmed that the MNA recently tabled a draft Constitution at its AGA, with the Assembly voting in favour of proceeding with a province-wide ratification vote. The need to recognize that the work ahead will be important toward fulfilling the dreams of Métis ancestors was noted.

Melanie Omeniho, President, Les Femme Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO)

LFMO President Omeniho extended greetings on behalf of the Women of the Métis Nation and expressed appreciation for being able to meet in person. Recognition was offered to the Elders, Senators and Veterans and comments were offered on the importance of working together in a united way, with full participation. LFMO President Omeniho confirmed that the LFMO looked forward to continuing its work with the MNO.

Julie Dabrusin, Member of Parliament (MP), and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Parliamentary Secretary Dabrusin welcomed delegates and expressed appreciation at being invited to participate in the MNO AGA. Noting that it was the 80th Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid, the Parliamentary Secretary recognized WWII Métis Veteran Paul DeLorme, who survived the raid, and commented on the importance of recognizing all Métis Veterans who fought for Canada. Delegates were informed that legislation would be introduced to amend the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* to change the composition of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to include Métis representation. The Parliamentary Secretary concluded by commenting on the importance of copyright laws to protect Métis arts and ensure they are not misappropriated.

Angela Davidson (Rainbow Eyes), Deputy Leader of the Green Party

Rainbow Eyes extended traditional greetings, welcomed delegates, acknowledged Elders, Senators, women, and Veterans and thanked the MNO for the opportunity to attend the AGA. Rainbow Eyes recognized MNO's efforts to continue pushing the federal government to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and commented on her role as Deputy Leader of the Green Party and efforts to lobby for the protection old growth forests in Fairy Creek (Ada'itsx) on Vancouver Island. The importance of ensuring Indigenous peoples have a voice, that culture is prioritized and that Indigenous leaders work together was noted. Rainbow Eyes encouraged Métis citizens to participate on the Green Party's recently established Indigenous Peoples Leaders Circle.

The Honourable Yvonne Boyer, Senator for Ontario (*pre-recorded video*)

Senator Boyer extended greetings to delegates, acknowledged her appointment as the first Indigenous Senator in the Province of Ontario, and spoke on her priority of ensuring the voices of Métis, Inuit and First Nations were heard in the Senate. Senator Boyer commended the MNO leadership and Métis citizens for their ground-breaking work and efforts to move the national conversation around rights for Indigenous peoples, forward.

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 AGA. The Premier acknowledged the efforts of Métis citizens in their communities and the importance of the annual gathering to celebrate Métis culture. Premier Ford noted he was looking forward to working with the MNO to build a prosperous future for Métis in Ontario.

The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations (*pre-recorded video*)

Minister Miller wished the MNO a successful 29th Assembly and acknowledged the efforts of the MNO to fight for Métis rights over the years, and their efforts to move forward with the MGRSA and self-government.

Gary Vidal, Member of Parliament (MP) for the Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River (*pre-recorded video*)

MP Vidal and Shadow Minister for Crown Indigenous Relations for the Conservative Party of Canada extended thanks to the MNO for the opportunity to attend, and to the organizers and volunteers of the MNO AGA. Delegates were encouraged to take the time during the Assembly to share stories and build stronger relationships. The MP extended best wishes to the AGA for successful deliberations.

Jagmeet Singh, Leader of Canada's New Democratic Party (NDP) *(pre-recorded video)*

NDP Leader Singh extended greetings on behalf of the NDP. Delegates were reminded that, during the last federal election, the NDP pledged to ensure parliamentarians worked to support Canadians needing help and to fight for, and work with, Indigenous communities. The NDP supported the federal government's commitment of \$2 billion in funding for housing for Indigenous peoples and obtained a commitment from the Liberal government to implement the Calls for Justice outlined in the "Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)". The NDP acknowledges the need for more supports and commitments and remains committed to working with, and lobbying for, Indigenous communities in Canada.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 10:19 a.m. and reconvened at 10:36 a.m.

Sponsors Acknowledged

The AGA sponsors were recognized for their contributions.

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, extended welcoming remarks to Senators, Veterans, the Colour Guard, MNOYC, MNOWC, Presidents of the MNA, MNBC and LFMO, MNO elected leaders, volunteers, and citizens. The President thanked the host communities for the welcome and acknowledged the territory welcome, offered by Chief Laforme, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, after the Canoe Arrival at Olympic Island. The President thanked MNO staff for their support with organizing the AGA's events and activities.

The President referred the Assembly to the materials provided in the AGA meeting package, Supplemental Kit and posted online at www.mnoaga.ca (see attached "List of Reference Materials" for a record of materials reviewed at the Assembly), and commented on the AGA agenda items, past year's activities and upcoming work. Information was provided on the safety protocols implemented at the AGA, and current data on Métis vaccination rates in Ontario.

Appreciation was expressed to Community Council Presidents, Council members, volunteers, Captains of the Hunt (COTH), COTH Liaisons, Advisory Councils, MNOWC, MNOYC, MNOVC, and members of the Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ Working Group for their support and service to Métis citizens and for helping set the direction of the MNO. President Froh welcomed MNC President Cassidy Caron and commended her representation on behalf of all Métis citizens across the Nation. Thanks were extended to community leaders and citizens for the support and care provided to Métis citizens during COVID-19. The President extended gratitude and thankfulness for all the best wishes she received during her personal health journey and reminded the Assembly of the importance of booking cancer screening testing.

The President reviewed activities and accomplishments achieved since the 2021 AGA, including:

- Supports provided to Métis citizens during COVID-19 by Community Councils, leadership and the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF)
- The continued collection of Métis data on housing, Michif and Métis languages and food security
- Progress towards self-government since the MNO's 2019 signing of the MGRSA

- Conferences and events including the second annual Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ Symposium, virtual March Break camp, Post-Secondary Resiliency Gathering and the MNOYC's 6th Annual Leadership Conference
- The March 2022 Métis delegation to the Vatican and July 2022 Papal Visit to Canada; a commitment is needed from the Pope for action and to officially recognize how Métis people were affected by the residential school system
- Registry activities including:
 - o Processing 4,300 new Métis citizens and 485 new Harvesters
 - o Providing 7,350 citizens with funding for MNO programs and services, and connecting with over 11,000 applicants, citizens and harvesters
 - o Establishing clear citizenship criteria
 - o Completion of the Registry Review which found that over 81% of files in the Registry are complete or would be complete with the swearing of an oath or additional documentation; the AGA will discuss the critical matter of addressing the 5,000 incomplete files in the Registry
 - o The Registry Review Final Report and "What We Heard" report
 - o Mobile Registries held throughout Ontario
- Evolving MNO governance including capacity building at the local level, updating the Métis Rules of Order, drafting the MNO Code of Conduct, updating the Conflict of Interest Policy, implementing the role of an Ethics and Integrity Commissioner and developing a vision and mission statement and strategic priorities
- Meetings with the Presidents of the MNA, MN-S and the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Canada to discuss:
 - o Shared priorities including proceeding with Federal Recognition Legislation
 - o Working with Ontario on areas of jurisdiction including Métis rights, language, culture, and health
 - o Co-developing with Canada a federal Métis Claims Policy
 - o Negotiating a stable, long term fiscal financing agreement
- Celebrations at the 50th Anniversary of Back to Batoche
- A PCMNO meeting with the Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs Ontario to discuss a renewed relationship and shared priorities
- Responding to media stories related to First Nations questioning Métis historic communities and Métis rights
- MNO operations, including:
 - o Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC)
 - o Healing and Wellness Branch activities
 - o Community Wellbeing Branch activities and the centralized service team called "ONE MNO"
 - o Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch activities
 - o Housing and Infrastructure Branch activities
 - o Rights, Research and Policy Branch activities
 - o Community Relations
 - o MNO government services (e.g., Finance Branch, Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) and Human Resources).

President Froh commented on business to be addressed at the Assembly and encouraged delegates to visit the booths set up for further information on MNO Branches and programs and services.

President Froh expressed gratitude to all in attendance for all their hard work, resilience, and commitment to advancing Métis rights, walking together on the collective path to Métis self-government and making a difference for Métis families today and for future generations of Métis.

Lunch Break

The Assembly recessed at 12:12 p.m. and reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

UPDATE REPORTS

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

Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran's Council (MNOVC)

Delegates viewed a video update from MNOVC President Brian Prairie.

Senators

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

Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ Working Group

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

Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC)

Delegates viewed a video update from MNOWC President Suzanne Jackson.

Captains of the Hunt

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

Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC)

MNOYC President Jordyn Playne introduced the members of the MNOYC and provided a verbal update report on activities over the past year and 2022 MNO Youth Conference held prior to the AGA.

MNO 2022 AGA BUSINESS MEETING COMMENCES

1. Procedures and Rules Review

The Chair reviewed the electronic voting process using the “clickers” provided.

Delegates were informed that the meeting was being webcast so that MNO citizens who could not attend in-person could still observe.

2. Establish Quorum

Chair Rowlinson reported that there were 227 registered citizens in attendance at 12:00 p.m. on Day 1 of Assembly, which set quorum at 114.

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

Vice-Chair Cadeau reviewed the MNO Bylaw requirements for quorum under Article 51(b) and Article 67(k) related to approval of Special Resolutions.

3. **Adoption of the 2022 Annual General Assembly Agenda**

In response to questions, Chair Rowlinson confirmed if reasons for abstaining or voting against resolutions were provided, they would be recorded in the Assembly minutes, and that a vote in abstention did not affect consensus.

It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young) and SECONDED (Peter Rivers)

That the Agenda for the 29th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly, scheduled August 19-21, 2022, be adopted with amendment to move the “Mayor’s Apology” from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on August 19, 2022.

RESOLVED (AGA220819-01)

(193 in favour; 4 opposed; 0 abstentions)

APOLOGY FROM THE CITY OF TORONTO

Chair Rowlinson extended thanks and complimented the City of Toronto's Parks and Recreation Department staff for their assistance on Olympic Island.

John Tory, Mayor of Toronto

Mayor Tory welcomed delegates, acknowledged Métis leaders and citizens and, on behalf of the City of Toronto (“City”), extended thanks for the invitation to attend the 2022 MNO AGA. Mayor Tory confirmed that an Indigenous Affairs Office was created to focus on supporting City divisions in their work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and all urban Indigenous communities. The City of Toronto approved a Reconciliation Action Plan that will guide the City and Council in its actions to advance truth, justice and reconciliation for the next ten years. The City values the importance of the phrases “nothing about us, without us”, and “for Indigenous by Indigenous” and as such, will collaborate with Indigenous leaders and community members to fulfill the actions within the Reconciliation Action Plan.

Mayor Tory read aloud an apology, on behalf of the City, for the historic injustices against Métis people and the role the City played in the Northwest Resistance of 1885². Mayor Tory concluded by affirming his deep commitment to walking the path of reconciliation together and continuing to make Toronto a city where Métis culture, expertise and way of being can thrive and be respected.

Suzanne Brunelle, Senator, Toronto and York Region Métis Council

Senator Brunelle thanked Mayor Tory for the apology and acknowledging the City’s role in the 1885 Northwest Resistance. It was noted that recognizing the narrative that perpetuated colonial violence was deeply significant and that the apology was an important step for the relationship between Métis citizens and the City. Senator Brunelle added that an apology was nothing without action, noting that the City’s Reconciliation Action Plan promised to restore truth, right relationships, and make financial reparations. To support this, Senator Brunelle invited the City to work with the local Métis Council to explore options for creating a Métis gathering space, which could also be used for heritage programs and educating citizens and visitors.

² The Apology is posted at <https://www.metisnation.org/news/toronto-mayor-john-tory-participates-in-mno-aga-2022/>

Margaret Froh, President, Métis Nation of Ontario

President Froh extended thanks to Mayor Tory, the City's Indigenous Affairs Office and Toronto and York Métis Council. The President recognized the importance of raising awareness of Métis history, communities, and culture, noting that healing relationships, and achieving real reconciliation required addressing past harms. Apologies were an important first step in this regard. The MNO, as the government representing Métis citizens in Ontario, continued to take steps toward self-government. Respectful, government-to-government relationships, were an important part of being self-determining.

Cassidy Caron, President, MNC

MNC President Caron acknowledged the efforts of Mayor Tory, the Toronto City Council and Toronto and York Métis Council for their advocacy, which led to the apology. Although the words were meaningful and important, apologies were made real through actions and atonement. It was important to ensure the moment was captured and remembered as part of Métis history, and that it be used to open doors and allow continued conversations. The apology was a reminder of Métis citizens' passion and the need to act on what is important.

MNC President Caron explained that her family members fought and died in the Battle of Batoche and that there were many parallels to history that must be remembered. The Métis people of Batoche petitioned for recognition, fair treatment, and respect of their rights to the land. In response, Canada, the City of Toronto, and government sent an army. In Rainy Lake, Métis people sought recognition and rights, and they were sent a treaty negotiator. Métis people in Sault Ste. Marie and Penetanguishene petitioned and were ignored. While these stories are unique, there are common threads that need to be woven together. It is important to understand that Métis are one nation, with many stories, that need to be told.

Delegates joined in thanking the Mayor of Toronto and the Toronto and York Métis Council for their work and efforts that led to the apology.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 2:31 p.m. and reconvened at 2:50 p.m.

4. 2021 AGA Minutes

4.1 Adoption of the 2021 AGA Minutes

Jo Anne Young, Secretary-Treasurer, reviewed the resolutions in the draft minutes of the MNO 2021 AGA³.

It was MOVED (Ron LePage) and SECONDED (Garry Laframboise)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held September 18-19, 2021, be adopted as presented.

RESOLVED (AGA220819-02)

(141 in favour; 6 opposed; 20 abstentions)

4.2 Business Arising from 2021 AGA Minutes

No items of business arising.

³ The 2021 AGA Minutes and Record of Resolutions are posted on the MNO AGA [website](#)

5. Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

Vice-Chair Cadeau reviewed the process for nominating and appointing the Resolutions Committee. The floor was opened for nominations with five names of candidates presented. The floor was closed for nominations.

Vice-Chair Cadeau recognized the following nominees for the 2022 MNO Resolutions Committee:

- Madyson Campbell
- Joshua Charpentier
- Angie-Lee Coture
- Senator Rene Gravelle
- Ronald LePage.

The nominees were given the opportunity to provide comments on their suitability for the position. After hearing the comments, citizens were invited to vote for up to three of the five nominees indicated.

Announcement of the 2022 Resolutions Committee

Vice-Chair Cadeau announced that, by a secret vote, the following individuals were appointed to the 2022 MNO AGA Resolutions Committee:

- Madyson Campbell
- Joshua Charpentier
- Ronald LePage.

6. Financial Update

6.1 Secretary-Treasurer's Update/Finance Report

Secretary-Treasurer Young reviewed a presentation titled, "AGA August 19, 2022" reporting on financial activities over the past year, and commented on:

- The continued growth and increased revenues of the MNO
- The implementation of:
 - o Quarterly financial workshops for the PCMNO, led by the Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
 - o Quarterly presentations to the PCMNO by Branch Directors on projects, funding, and Branch spending
- Total funding to support MNO citizens and families and enabling functions
- A \$3.7 million year end surplus
- Approval by the PCMNO for five new reserves, and transfer of surplus funding as follows:
 - o \$900,000 to the Community Council Governance Reserve
 - o \$800,000 to the Advancing Métis Land Claims Reserve
 - o \$1,375,628 to the Self-Government Infrastructure Maintenance and Replacement Reserve
 - o \$500,000 to the Ensuring Operational Continuity Reserve
 - o \$155,910 to the Infinity Property Services Reserve
- Total expenditures, carry-forwards and refunds
- The process for the external audit and role of the auditor
- The qualified audit opinion
- Steps for moving forward:
 - o Community Council reporting needs to be complete, verifiable and submitted in a timely manner, so it is available to the auditors

- Discussions are needed on standardized record keeping that can be implemented with Community Councils
- Support needs to be provided by Finance Branch Liaisons for Community Council leadership, to assist with record keeping.

Point of Order

In response to a point of order, Chair Rowlinson confirmed each speaker would be given three minutes to ask questions and/or provide comments, and one additional minute for a supplemental comment/question.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- The Finance and Audit Committee and PCMNO reviewed and discussed the audited statements; the PCMNO approved a recommendation to present them to the AGA
- MNO's funding agreements identify specific deliverables on the funding; Community Council and PCMNO governance is not funded
 - Following year end, the PCMNO approved allocating \$13,000 to Community Councils with an active charter, from "strategic initiatives"
- In accordance with the funding agreement, any unspent community capacity funding, advanced under ELCC, must be returned
- MNO hired two Finance Liaisons to support Community Councils; several Community Councils have already utilized this support.

Additional comments and clarifications were offered on the need for adequate time to review the audited financial statements and financial training for Community Councils.

6.2 Approval of 2021-2022 Audited Financial Statements

Secretary-Treasurer Young confirmed that the PCMNO accepted the Financial Statements at its meeting held August 6, 2022.

Benoit Groulx, Audit Partner, Baker Tilly LLP, referred to the Independent Auditor's Report. It was confirmed that the financial statements were a qualified opinion because the auditor was unable to determine whether any adjustment to the amounts and disclosures were necessary on the aggregated net assets held by the Community Councils as set out under Note 13. The statements fairly presented the financial position of the MNO Secretariat as of March 31, 2022, and the results of operations and its cash flows for the year-ended March 31, 2020, in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Point of Order

In response to a point of order regarding concern that the three-minute speaking time allotment was "running time", Vice-Chair Cadeau reconfirmed the Chair's prior announcement that each person would be allotted three-minutes to speak and one additional minute for supplemental comments/questions.

Benoit Groulx reviewed the Audited Financial Statements for the year-ending March 31, 2022.

Secretary-Treasurer Young introduced the resolution to approve the audited financial statements.

Concerns were offered regarding the lack of access by the PCMNO to general ledgers or the project detailed report (PDR) and that the five reserves were created in August 2022, for a March 31, 2022, year-end.

In response to questions on the resolution, it was noted that:

- MNO has identified the need to provide additional supports to Community Councils; if Community Councils can meet the threshold to allow records to be sampled, it was likely that an unqualified opinion could be achieved
- “Due to Community Councils”, is the amount equal to the “restricted investments” line item; it is funding invested for Community Councils, held by the Secretariat on their behalf
 - o Some Community Councils received investment shares under Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs) negotiated (e.g., Detour Gold now Agnico Mines, Kirkland Gold)
 - o For Community Councils that received cash for IBAs, the MNO opened a portfolio account to enable them to invest the funds
 - o Community Councils provide direction to the MNO should they decide to sell shares or pay out funding from investments
 - o IBAs arise from the duty to consult and accommodate for impacts to the way of life for Métis citizens who live in a region; the MNO cannot impose a duty to consult for other regions
- Materiality for Community Councils was set at \$500,000; some Community Councils have assets that are nearing the \$500,000 materiality threshold
- The \$3.7 million surplus has been allocated to the reserves; Community Councils with an active Charter will each receive \$13,000 from the \$900,000 allocated to the Community Council Governance Reserve (Note 18)
 - o Resolutions would need to be approved to allocate the funding
 - o There are no restrictions on the use of the funding
- The year-end balance and any surplus would not have been identified by March 31, 2022 as the books did not close until mid-May 2022
- A meeting was held with the auditor to discuss any Canada Revenue Agency implications before reserves were set up; municipalities often create reserve funding for capital projects
- Except for salary information, which is private and confidential, the PDR for the New Relationship Fund (NRF) funding was provided to the PCMNO
- The Ministry of Indigenous Affairs provided \$16,880 in funding to the MNO to respond to the Algonquins of Ontario Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) claim; Métis communities are consulted when First Nations apply for an addition to reserve lands or a TLE claim
- The need for a Métis Land Claims policy has been identified by the MNO as a priority.

Comments offered in support of the resolution included:

- That two finance workshops, and a two-hour in-camera meeting with the auditor were held with the PCMNO to review the audited financial statements
 - o The CFO followed up with PCMNO members who opposed the resolution to approve the audited financial statements, to provide further clarifications
- The auditor confirmed that the process to establish reserves met accounting principles
- The MNO’s 9% allocation to administration supports, was less than the 15-20% allocated by other organizations
- The MNO’s financial stewardship resulted in a year end surplus of \$3.7 million

- There is a commitment to flow funds to Community Councils, invest in infrastructure, set aside funding for operational continuity and support Infinity Property Services
- The qualified opinion provides an opportunity to invest in financial systems and to co-develop financial training and supports with Community Councils
- The audited financial statements were made available to citizens online, well in advance of the AGA.

It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young) and SECONDED (Andy Dufrane)

That the 29th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly adopt the Métis Nation of Ontario Audited Financial Statements, for the year ended March 31, 2022, as presented.

RESOLVED (AGA220819-03)

(114 in favour; 33 opposed; 6 abstentions)

6.3 Appointment of the Auditor

It was MOVED (Rene Gravelle) and SECONDED (Kathleen Anderson)

That the 29th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly appoint Baker Tilly, Ottawa LLP, as the Métis Nation of Ontario Auditor for 2022-2023.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA220819-04)

Resolutions Committee Announcement

Resolutions Committee Chair Ron LePage advised that Ordinary (Non-Special Business) Resolutions would be accepted until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 20, 2022.

7. Year in Review Video

Delegates viewed the video titled, “Métis Nation of Ontario – 2021-2022 Highlights”.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rowlinson thanked delegates for their participation during Day One of the Assembly. The 29th MNO AGA, held August 19-22, 2022, adjourned on Day One – August 19, 2022, at 5:33 p.m.

DAY TWO – August 20, 2022

MNO 2022 AGA BUSINESS MEETING RECONVENED

8. MNO 2022 AGA Reconvenes

The 2022 MNO AGA held August 19-21, 2022, reconvened on Day Two – August 20, 2022, at 8:58 a.m.

Chair Rowlinson welcomed participants, recalled discussions and presentations that occurred on Day One, and offered a reminder of the Standing Rules of Order.

President Froh reminded delegates of the vaccine clinic available and encouraged them to visit the vendors’ booths. Thanks were extended to MNO staff supporting the events and activities and the Finance Branch and Secretary-Treasurer for the positive year-end audit report. She noted the need to continue to build capacity at the Community Councils in the Regions, and to take action for Métis recognition of rights and the protection of those rights and resources.

The President acknowledged the historic apology offered by the Mayor of Toronto and the announcement of the recent appointment of Justice Michelle O'Bonsawin, the first Indigenous judge, to the Supreme Court of Canada. An overview of the Agenda for Day Two was provided.

9. PRESENTATIONS: MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER – ADVANCING MÉTIS RIGHTS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT

9.1 Métis Rights and Legal Update

Jason Madden, Partner, Pape Salter Teillet LLP (PST), reviewed a presentation titled, "Legal Update on Métis Rights and Self-Government"⁴.

9.2 Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement (MGRSA)

Brian Black, Director of Self-Government Strategy, reviewed a presentation titled, "Métis Self-Government"⁵.

In response to questions, information was offered on:

- The purpose of the MNO Constitution
- The need to deal with the Registry Review:
 - o A Constitution could not be drafted without clarity on who the MNO represents
 - o Once MNO has determined how it will work together, through the RIAs and RIA Workplans, and who the Constitution is for, MNO can start to draft the Constitution
- The need to clearly articulate to First Nations, using historic facts, that Métis are a people and have their own culture, and that Métis come from distinct communities.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 10:34 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

In response to questions, it was noted that the MNO will soon begin drafting the Constitution. Over the past year, the PCMNO approved three resolutions providing a total of \$90,000 in funding for each Region to develop RIAs and RIA Workplans. Each Region was at a different stage of progress and level of spending on the funding.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- A suggestion that the Registry Review discussions should be empathetic to those who do not currently have complete files but have contributed greatly to the MNO over the years
- Some people have had their MNO citizenship verified several times over the past 15 years; changing the rules would result in some citizens feeling disrespected and not valued.

The Vice-Chair confirmed that quorum for the Assembly was set at 114, and that 150 votes in favour were required to approve a Special Resolution.

Ordinary Resolution: Advancing Métis Self-Government

Ron LePage, Resolutions Committee Chair, confirmed that the Resolutions Committee met the night prior and reviewed two Ordinary Resolutions.

⁴ Presentation titled, "Legal Update on Métis Rights and Self-Government" is posted on the MNO AGA [website](#)

⁵ Presentation titled, "Métis Self-Government" is posted on the MNO AGA [website](#)

He reported that the Resolutions Committee determined that the resolution titled, “Advancing Métis Self-Government” complies with MNO Policy #2011-002, and as such, supports its consideration at the AGA. The Resolutions Committee Chair introduced the draft resolution.

It was MOVED (Tim Sinclair) and SECONDED (Sharon Cadeau)

WHEREAS beginning in the late 18th Century distinct Métis communities emerged in various regions surrounding the Upper Great Lakes as well as along the waterways and fur trade routes of what is now known as Ontario;

AND WHEREAS 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;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) was created to bring these Ontario Métis communities 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 set out in MNO Statement of Prime Purpose;

AND WHEREAS since its creation the MNO has developed and evolved as a Métis government and actively pursued the recognition of Métis rights within Ontario, including, advancing the *R. v. Powley* as a test case on Métis rights all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada;

AND WHEREAS after years of struggle, advocacy and direction from the courts to negotiate, the MNO and Canada signed the *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement* (“MGRSA”) in June 2019, which expressly confirms that the Métis communities represented by the MNO hold the inherent right to self-government;

AND WHEREAS in the MGRSA the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations expressly committed to recommending Métis self-government implementation legislation to Parliament in order to provide a legislative base for the formal recognition of the MNO’s self-government in Canadian law;

AND WHEREAS in August 2021 the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations wrote to the MNO President to re-affirm the federal Crown’s commitment to implementing the MGRSA and ensure that all Métis governments Canada is negotiating with are treated fairly and equitably, including, ensuring the MGRSA is supplemented to include recognition and commitments provided to other Métis governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 MNO AGA directs that:

1. The MNO, including, the PCMNO, Community Councils and advisory bodies, be directed to lobby the Minister for Crown-Indigenous Relations to introduce into Parliament the implementation legislation promised in the MGRSA by the end of 2022, including, potentially supplementing the MGRSA to ensure the MNO has the same self-government recognition provided to all other Métis governments; and
2. The MNO, including, the PCMNO, Community Councils and advisory bodies, be directed to educate Ontario MPs as well as other relevant MPs on the importance of this implementation legislation in order to garner support for this legislation when it is introduced into Parliament.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA220820-01)

9.3 Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process Consultations Update – What We Heard Report

Dr. Brian Tucker, Director of Rights, Research and Policy (RRP), reviewed a presentation titled, “Registry Review Process: Update and Next Steps”⁶.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 12:09 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Delegates viewed a video titled, “A Case Study in Excellence: the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process”.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Rowlinson confirmed quorum was present, with a total of 196 delegates in attendance.

9.3 Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process Consultations Update – What We Heard Report (Continued)

NON-SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTION

Ordinary Resolution: Next Steps in Registry Review Process

Resolutions Committee Chair LePage reported that the Resolutions Committee determined that the resolution titled, “Next Steps in Registry Review Process” complies with MNO Policy #2011-002, and as such, supports its consideration at the AGA. The Resolutions Committee Chair introduced the draft resolution.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- The MNO Registry offers support to assist citizens with incomplete files; if a person is removed from the registry, they can at any time, complete their file and receive citizenship
- Decisions around the Registry Review are important to move the MNO forward as a Métis government representing Métis rights-holders and Métis communities
- All clickers, used for voting, were wiped at the end of each day and do not work on subsequent days; citizens must obtain a new clicker each day
- Citizens will be invited to vote to confirm consensus on each resolution; if any objections are noted, the resolution will proceed to a vote
- A Special Resolution was required to amend the MNO Bylaws
- An appeal/reconsideration process for citizen registration decisions has not yet been developed.

Point of Order

In response to a point of order, Chair Rowlinson confirmed that, as question on the resolution had been called before citizens had enough opportunity to speak, extra time would be allotted for debate.

During discussion, concerns were raised regarding the potential misuse of the clickers, and that approval of the resolution would result in some people no longer being citizens of the MNO.

⁶ Presentation titled, “Registry Review Process: Update and Next Steps” is posted on the MNO AGA [website](#)

It was MOVED (Tim Sinclair) and SECONDED (Rene Gravelle)

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 and 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%) are 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.

RESOLVED (AGA220820-02)

(188 in favour; 29 opposed; 6 abstentions)

10. SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions Committee Chair LePage reported that the Committee reviewed the eight Special Business Resolutions (SBRs) and confirmed that four were deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002, and four were deemed to be non-compliant.

10.1 Special Business Resolution #22-AGA-04: MNO Policy #2021-001 Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services

As SBR#22-AGA-04 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002, it was brought to the floor to be voted on. During discussion, the Assembly was advised that Special Resolutions could not be amended, footnote 4 was included in the Policy to account for any administrative errors, the majority of funding for direct benefits and services was from the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada, and a person would not be eligible for funding if they were not a resident of Ontario.

It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young) and SECONDED (Mitch Case)

WHEREAS the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) passed resolution PC210528-09 directing the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) administration to, among other things, undertake province-wide consultations with all citizens on the final report related to the

MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (“Registry Review”) with a view to preparing and publicly releasing a “What We Heard Report” based on those consultations;

AND WHEREAS the province-wide consultation process took place between June 2021 and May 2022, and consisted of seven (7) virtual all-citizen town halls, one (1) virtual MNO leadership town hall, an online feedback portal, and an in-person MNO Leadership Rendezvous session;

AND WHEREAS in response to preliminary feedback received from citizens during the consultations, the PCMNO approved MNO Policy #2021-001: Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services, which took effect on April 1, 2022;

AND WHEREAS MNO Policy #2021-001: Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services provides that it “shall be brought to the MNO AGA for its consideration and potential adoption”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 MNO AGA:

1. adopts *MNO Policy #2021-001: Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services*, which is attached at Appendix A⁷ to this resolution; and
2. directs that the sentence in section 8 of the policy stating “This Policy shall be brought to the MNO AGA for its consideration and potential adoption” be amended to read as follows:

“This Policy was adopted and amended by the 2022 MNO AGA.”

RESOLVED (AGA220820-03)

(185 in favour; 17 opposed; 2 abstentions)

10.2 Special Business Resolution #22-AGA-05: On MNO Policy #2022-002 Verification of MNO Citizenship File Status to Other Governments and Third-Party Institutions

SBR#22-AGA-05 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002, it was brought to the floor to be voted on.

It was MOVED (Sharon Cadeau) and SECONDED (Mitch Case)

WHEREAS the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) passed resolution PC210528-09 directing the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) administration to, among other things, undertake province-wide consultations with all citizens on the final report related to the MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (“Registry Review”) with a view to preparing and publicly releasing a “What We Heard Report” based on those consultations;

AND WHEREAS the province-wide consultation process took place between June 2021 and May 2022, and consisted of seven (7) virtual all-citizen town halls, one (1) virtual MNO leadership town hall, an online feedback portal, and an in-person MNO Leadership Rendezvous session;

AND WHEREAS in response to preliminary feedback received from citizens during those consultations, the PCMNO adopted MNO Policy #2022-002: Verification of MNO Citizenship File Status to Other Governments and Third Party Institutions on March 27, 2022;

AND WHEREAS MNO Policy #2022-002: Verification of MNO Citizenship File Status to Other Governments and Third Party Institutions provides that it “shall be brought to the MNO AGA for its consideration and potential adoption”;

⁷ MNO Policy #2021-001, *Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services*, is posted on the MNO AGA [website](#)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 MNO AGA:

1. adopts MNO Policy #2022-002: Verification of MNO Citizenship File Status to Other Governments and Third Party Institutions⁸, which is attached at Appendix A to this resolution; and
2. directs that the sentence in section 8 of the policy stating “This Policy shall be brought to the MNO AGA for its consideration and potential adoption” be amended to read as follows:

3.

“This Policy was adopted and amended by the 2022 MNO AGA.”

RESOLVED (AGA220820-04)

(184 in favour; 18 opposed; 8 abstentions)

10.3 Special Business Resolution #22-AGA-06: On Virtual Attendance and Voting at General Assembly Meetings

As SBR#22-AGA-06 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002, it was brought to the floor to be voted on.

During discussion, the Assembly was advised that under the MNO Secretariat Act, and Corporations Act, technical amendments can be made to the MNO Bylaws. As such, if the resolution were approved, the PCMNO may, at its next meeting, approve the technical change to the wording of section 51 of the MNO bylaws to change “... ensure technological issues do to hinder” to “... ensure technological issues do **not** hinder”. Staff have been investigating technology that would allow virtual attendance and voting at an AGA.

It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young) and SECONDED (Sharon Cadeau)

WHEREAS the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) confirm that the MNO shall hold a General Assembly of citizens annually (known as the Annual General Assembly or “AGA”) and may hold other General Assemblies of citizens that the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) shall call and provide notice in relation to;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Bylaws have historically been interpreted as only allowing in-person attendees at a General Assembly to be considered “present” and vote;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Bylaws allow PCMNO councillors to be deemed “present” at a PCMNO meeting even if they are not physically in attendance at said meeting;

26. A councilor may participate in a meeting of the council or of a committee of the council by communication facilities that permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other, and a councilor participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.

AND WHEREAS Ontario’s *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, which the MNO currently relies upon to provide the MNO Secretariat legal status and capacity until the MNO reaches a self-government treaty with Canada, provides that meetings may be held by “telephonic or electronic means” and that a member who votes through those means or “establishes a communications link to the meeting” are deemed to be “present” at the meeting;

⁸ MNO Policy #2022-002, Verification of MNO Citizenship File Status to Other Governments and Third Party Institutions, is posted on the MNO AGA [website](#)

AND WHEREAS because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the MNO has increasingly developed and acquired experience in hosting virtual AGAs and other province-wide meetings, town halls, and other events virtually; however, it restricted voting during the 2020 and 2021 virtual AGAs to only essential business matters so that it could familiarize itself with and address technical challenges related to certain online voting platforms;

AND WHEREAS citizens who may continue to not be able to physically travel to an AGA or General Assembly have indicated a strong interest in being able to continue to participate in these important MNO meetings as well as vote as a part of these meetings;

AND WHEREAS the MNO has a strong interest in ensuring that as many of its citizens as possible continue to participate within its democratic self-government structures and institutions, including, the AGA and other General Assemblies, subject to having the technology in place that allows virtual and/or hybrid meetings to be properly and efficiently conducted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 MNO AGA resolves that:

1. The following provisions shall be added as section 51 of the MNO Bylaws:

(c) A citizen may participate in a meeting of the General Assembly by communication facilities that permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other and vote through an effective, efficient, and verifiable technological means, and a citizen participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting. In order to ensure technological issues do not hinder or invalidate the conduct of a General Assembly, the quorum requirements set out in (b) above only include the in-person attendees at the General Assembly on its first day, and the in-person meeting shall be able to continue, at any time, without the participation of any or all virtual participants. No technological challenges related to virtual participation can invalidate the conduct of an in-person General Assembly in any way.

(d) As a part of the notice requirements for a General Assembly, the PCMNO shall prescribe the requirements for virtual participation and voting in a General Assembly, including, but not limited to: registration requirements, participation obligations, technological requirements, etc. For greater certainty, unlike in-person attendance, virtual participation in a General Assembly is not an absolute right of citizens and may be limited by the terms set out in the notice issued for a given meeting or technological difficulties that may occur during the conduct of said meeting.

2. Section 67(k) of the MNO Bylaws be amended to now read as follows:

(k) "Special Resolution" means a resolution passed at a General Assembly, the subject of which is considered a fundamental change and which requires the **meeting's quorum requirements are met and that** at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the eligible voters in relation to said resolution vote in favour of it. For example, if 100 eligible voters vote on a special resolution, 67 (i.e., "two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast") must vote in favour of it in order for the special resolution to be carried.

RESOLVED (AGA220820-05)

(157 in favour; 48 opposed; 6 abstentions)

Jason Madden encouraged citizens to consider providing direction around having Special Business Resolutions reviewed in advance so that any minor errors could be identified and corrected in advance of their final submission.

10.4 Special Business Resolution #22-AGA-07 – Traditional Harvesting Territories Map in MNO Registry Policy

As SBR#22-AGA-07 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002, it was brought to the floor to be voted on. Comments were offered on the intent of the resolution to align the map in the Harvesting Policy, with the map in the Harvesting Agreement; the need for the map to be redrawn as it does not align with the seven historic communities recognized in 2017; the need for the map to be discussed/reviewed by the Captains of the Hunt and legal counsel; and a suggestion that the Regions be included in discussions on revising the Traditional Harvesting Territories map.

It was MOVED (Sharon Cadeau) and SECONDED (Jo Anne Young)

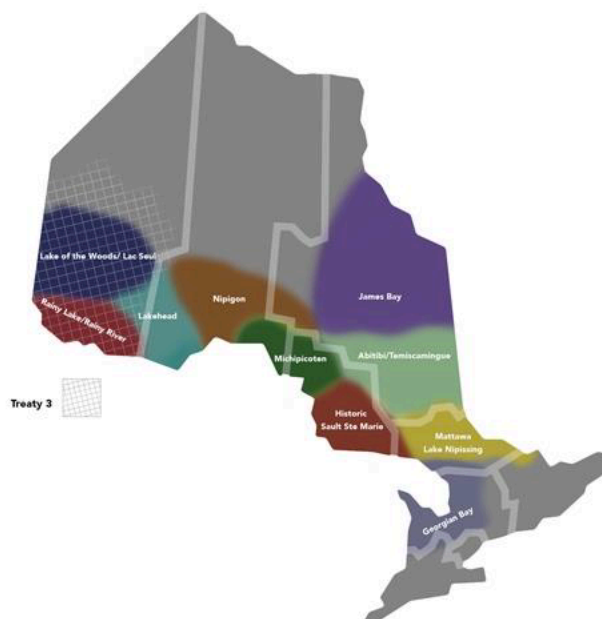
WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) Registry Policy has been in place as an interim policy since 2009, and was formally adopted (2014) and subsequently amended (2015 and 2019) by special resolutions of the MNO Annual General Assembly (“AGA”);

AND WHEREAS the MNO Registry Policy, along with other MNO communication materials and/or policies, contain an outdated map of the MNO’s traditional harvesting territories (“THT”) that does not align with the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting that was signed with Ontario in 2018 (“2018 Harvesting Agreement”);

AND WHEREAS Article 60 of the MNO Bylaws confirms that “MNO policies previously adopted by the General Assembly may only be repealed or amended by Special Resolution” of the AGA;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 MNO AGA resolves that:

1. The map at Appendix A of the MNO Registry Policy be replaced with the map included in the 2018 Harvesting Agreement as set out below and that all other related MNO communications materials and/or policies be similarly updated.



DEFEATED

(134 in favour; 51 opposed; 9 abstentions)

Resolutions Committee Announcement

Resolutions Committee Chair LePage advised that the Resolutions Committee would be meeting at 5:00 p.m. to review the remaining Ordinary Resolutions.

In response to questions, the Assembly was informed that a Special Business Resolution, to amend Policy #2011-022, “Process for Conducting Ordinary and Special Resolutions at a General Assembly” had been put forward to allow the Resolutions Committee to sit for two consecutive years and to review proposed Special Business Resolutions to ensure they are compliant. Unfortunately, the resolution was deemed to be non-compliant, and would not be considered at the 2022 AGA. The PCMNO and MNO Executive Committee would review all Special Business Resolutions that did not come forward to identify how the MNO could address them.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rowlinson thanked delegates for their participation during Day Two of the Assembly. The 29th MNO AGA, held August 19-21, 2022, adjourned on Day Two – August 20, 2022, at 3:40 p.m.

DAY THREE – August 21, 2022

MNO 2022 AGA BUSINESS MEETING RECONVENED

11. MNO 2022 AGA Reconvenes

The 2022 MNO AGA held August 19-21, 2022, reconvened on Day Three – August 21, 2022, at 8:35 a.m. Delegates thanked MNO staff for their support and efforts with the AGA.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Rowlinson confirmed quorum was present with a total of 156 delegates in attendance.

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

12. ORDINARY / NON-SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions Committee Chair LePage, announced that the Resolutions Committee received and reviewed 14 Ordinary Business (non-Special Business) Resolutions, and had now determined that 11 were deemed compliant and three were deemed non-compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002.

12.2 Ordinary Resolution: Process to Deal with Outstanding Métis Claims Against the Federal Government

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. It was noted that there were a significant number of seconders who signed the resolution, which reflected overwhelming support.

It was MOVED (Mitch Case) and SECONDED (Jordyn Playne)

WHEREAS Canada's historic relationships with Indigenous peoples have been steeped in colonialism, and successive governments have failed to acknowledge and respect the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples, including their rights in relation to land, their distinct governments, their customary laws and traditions, as well as their unique cultures;

AND WHEREAS in the mid to late 18th century, the Métis Nation emerged as a distinct Indigenous people whose Homelands stretch from the lakes and rivers of Ontario; cross the southern plains and the prairies, traverse the mountains into British Columbia and into the Northwest Territories, and includes the hills and valleys of the north-central American States;

AND WHEREAS within what is now Ontario, distinct, inter-related and overlapping Métis communities emerged in various regions surrounding the Upper Great Lakes as well as along the waterways and fur trade routes of what is now known as Ontario prior to the Crown effecting legal and political control in those regions;

AND WHEREAS these historic Métis communities 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 that persists to the present day;

AND WHEREAS section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, states that “the existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal people of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed” and “the ‘aboriginal peoples of Canada’ includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples”;

AND WHEREAS the MNO was created to represent these Métis communities within Ontario as well as to advocate on behalf of its citizens who are the descendants of these historic Métis communities as well as citizens of the Métis Nation from other parts of the Métis Nation Homeland who now live in Ontario with respect to collectively-held rights, interests, and outstanding claims protected by sections 25 and 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*,

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose gives the MNO the responsibility of standing up for, and defending the rights of, the Métis communities the MNO represents and also respects the authority of these Métis communities to represent themselves within the MNO's overall self-government;

AND WHEREAS there are outstanding Métis claims against the Crown within Ontario that have not been addressed based on the following historical facts, among others:

- The 1840 Petition of the Half-Breeds of Penetanguishene calling on the Crown to recognize them as they did other Half-Breeds in what would become Ontario. In direct response to this Petition, the Crown created and subsequently enforced a policy entitled “The Mode of Excluding Half breeds from Receiving Presents,” which denied this Métis population the benefits to which they were entitled and led to the Crown failing to address their pre-existing rights as Métis;
- The promises made to the Métis at Sault Ste. Marie that they were to receive “free and full possession” of their lands at Sault Ste. Marie. This promise was subsequently defeated by a scheme to force Métis families to purchase their own lands in a way that was unfeasible in their economic circumstance. The 1850 Petition of the Half-Breeds at Sault Ste. Marie and the supporting petition from the local Anishinaabek Chiefs makes clear that both the Métis and the Anishinaabek expected and demanded that the Métis land rights would be respected;
- The 1875 Adhesion to Treaty 3 with the “Halfbreeds of Rainy Lake and River” that was to allow for this Métis community to secure reserve lands and the benefits from Treaty 3 as Métis, not as Indians. The Crown later implemented an approach that denied the Métis descendants the benefits of the Adhesion as a distinct Métis collective, not as an *Indian Act* Band;
- The 1905 Petition of Half-Breeds of Moose Factory seeking a scrip process such as had been offered to Métis on the prairies. The Crown's delays and jurisdictional buck passing led to the rights and lands of these Métis never being addressed;

- The 1968 burning of the Métis village at Agawa Bay by Crown governments in order to make way for Lake Superior Provincial Park;

AND WHEREAS the MNO also represents citizens who are the descendants of the beneficiaries of s. 31 of the *Manitoba Act, 1870* as well as Canada's fraudulent Métis scrip system;

AND WHEREAS the outstanding claims have been repeatedly raised by these Métis communities in Ontario, including, through pan-Aboriginal organizations they were previously a part of in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s and as a part of Canada's constitutional process;

AND WHEREAS because of the complete lack of response to Ontario Métis demands to deal with Métis rights and claims, the MNO turned to the courts in the 1990s to finally ensure these issues could no longer be ignored;

AND WHEREAS in 2003, after a decade of litigation success within Ontario, the Supreme Court of Canada in *R. v. Powley* ("Powley") held that "the inclusion of the Métis in section 35 represents Canada's commitment to recognize and value the distinctive Métis cultures, which grew up in areas not yet open to colonization, and which the framers of the *Constitution Act, 1982* recognized can only survive if the Métis are protected along with other aboriginal communities" and that "section 35 requires that we recognize and protect those customs and traditions that were historically important features of Métis communities";

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada concluded that "the Métis community in and around Sault Ste. Marie have an aboriginal right to hunt for food under s. 35(1)" and direct governments to negotiate with Métis to address the promise of section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

AND WHEREAS since the release of *Powley* the Supreme Court of Canada has further addressed the need for the Crown to finally deal with Métis rights, interests and claims in cases such as *Cunningham v. Alberta*, *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada* and *Daniels v. Canada*;

AND WHEREAS the Senate Standing Committee on Indigenous Issues found in 2013 that "reconciliation (with Métis groups) is necessary in order to provide a solid foundation for present and future generations of Métis in Canada";

AND WHEREAS in July 2014, the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Issues released his report on the "Situation of Indigenous Peoples In Canada" and in that report states "the Government does not appear to have a coherent process or policy in place to address the land and compensation claims of the Métis people". The Report specifically recommended that: "Canada should take active measures to develop a procedure for addressing outstanding Métis land claims, to avoid having to litigate cases individually, and enter into negotiations with Métis representatives to reach agreements towards this end";

AND WHEREAS the 2015 Eyford Report on the Federal Claims Policy specifically noted the exclusion of the Métis from Federal Processes and called for Canada to "develop a reconciliation process to support the exercise of Métis section 35(1) rights and to reconcile their interests";

AND WHEREAS the 2016 Isaac Report on Métis Rights called on Canada to "... either amend its existing Comprehensive Land Claims and Specific Claims Policies, or develop a new policy, that expressly addresses Métis Section 35 rights claims and related issues, and that the basis for such amended policies or a new policy be founded on the legal principles of reconciliation and the honour of the Crown". It is also recommended that Canada should work with the appropriate

provinces and territories to develop a joint process by which to address unresolved Métis section 35 rights claims and related issues;

AND WHEREAS in April 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario, as a Governing Member of the Métis National Council, entered into the “Canada- Métis Nation Accord” which established a political relationship between our Métis Governments and the Canadian State, and included in its goals and objectives the following:

- 1.1.3 Advance reconciliation of the rights, claims, interests and aspirations of the Métis Nation and those of all Canadians;
- 1.1.4 End the legacy of colonialism and colonial attitudes wherever they may remain in federal legislation, policies and practices;
- 1.1.5 Improve socio-economic conditions of Métis and their access to social and economic programs and services that address their needs;
- 1.1.6 Explore and support ways to address the historic and continuing impacts of unresolved claims and grievances of the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS in 2017, Canada entered into a “Framework Agreement” with the Métis Nation of Ontario which included among its objectives the following support for Ontario Métis Claims and rights related issues;

AND WHEREAS in 2017, Canada entered into a Framework Agreement with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community. Under the Agreement, Canada and the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community were to engage in negotiations that foster an open exchange of ideas through respectful dialogue and frank discussion to arrive at a shared solution to resolve the outstanding claims of this Métis community;

AND WHEREAS in 2019, Canada entered into Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreements with the Métis Nation of Ontario, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and Métis Nation of Alberta, all of which recognize the need to negotiate to reach just and lasting settlements for outstanding Métis claims;

AND WHEREAS in 2019, the Federal Government began discussions with the Métis National Council and its Governing Members on a potential Métis Claims Policy, and the Métis Nation of Ontario made significant recommendations in our November 8, 2019 policy paper on Métis Claims;

AND WHEREAS on October 21st, 2021, the 171st anniversary of the submission of the 1850 Métis petition and the supporting Anishinaabek Petition to the Crown, the leadership of the Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community, and the President of the Métis Nation of Ontario wrote a joint letter to Canada calling for a formal process to resolve this long outstanding issue;

AND WHEREAS Canada formally endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2016, and formally adopted a Bill to entrench UNDRIP into Canadian Law in June of 2021, and UNDRIP specifically recognizes the rights of Indigenous peoples related to historical wrongs namely in sections 10, 25-28;

AND WHEREAS the aforementioned list of Crown inaction dating back for nearly two centuries is a clear pattern of neglect and indifference aimed at defeating all promises made to the Métis and is not only a shameful part of the history of Canada, but is exacerbated by the fact that there continues to be no process at the federal level to address Métis claims;

AND WHEREAS the Métis continue to be deliberately excluded from the federal claims policies and processes available to Inuit and First Nations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this 29th General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario calls on Canada to live up to its constitutional obligations to Métis communities regarding historic claims and grievances;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada be requested to reply, in writing, outlining their proposed timeline for the establishment of a Métis claims process or to reply, in writing explaining their rationale for their failure to meet the basic expectations created by Section 35 (1) and by Bill C-15, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) develop a working group on Métis Claims issues and develop and seek funding for the following strategies:

- A government relations strategy to educate federal elected and bureaucratic officials of all Federal Parties on the history of Métis claims in Ontario and the need for federal policy on this issue;
- A public relations strategy to raise awareness of Canadians on the history of Métis claims and the failure of Government to address these issues, with the view of enlisting support from the general public including educational institutions, unions, churches, municipalities, and all levels of civil society;
- A research strategy to prepare the necessary historic and legal research to support negotiations, and if no negotiations process is made available, to prepare for legal action to force Canada to live up to its most basic constitutional obligations;
- To appeal to the United Nations (“UN”) for support in forcing Canada to live up to its own constitutional obligations and previous calls from the UN to create processes for Métis Claims;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that President Froh, in her capacity as a member of the Métis National Council Board of Governors bring the issue of the need for a Métis Claims Process to the Board of Governors for immediate discussion on the development of a coordinated strategy on the issue of a federal Métis claims process;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MNO implement a whole-of-government approach to rigorously advocate for the implementation of a federal Métis claims policy to address long ignored historic claims and grievances.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-01)

(170 in favour; 2 opposed; 2 abstentions)

12.2 Ordinary Resolution: Council Charter – Two-Spirit/LGBTQ+ Council

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. Comments were offered on: the intent of the resolution; the importance of the Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ Working Group; the overwhelming support for the reclamation of space for Two-Spirit people; support for changing the Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ Working Group to a Council versus a standing committee (i.e., a Council has legal capacity to open a bank account, a standing committee does not); and support from the MNOVC for the resolution.

It was MOVED (Benny Michaud) and SECONDED (Charlotte Hunter Louttit-Kijekijik)

WHEREAS Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ Métis people contribute greatly to our Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ Métis people have historically been valued for their distinct responsibilities and roles within our communities and have had these roles devalued and diminished through the process of colonization;

AND WHEREAS various levels of Métis governments have identified Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ people as a “respected community within a community” and identify Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ rights as a high priority;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario's Statement of Prime Purpose indicates that the MNO will commit to “improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community”;

AND WHEREAS the Two-Spirit/LGBTQ+ Working Group, established in 2016, has gathered extensive input from the Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ community in relation to appropriate governing structures;

AND WHEREAS the need has been expressed for a formally recognized Métis Nation of Ontario Two-Spirit/LGBTQ+ Council with regional representation;

AND WHEREAS a Two-Spirit/LGBTQ+ Council would serve a critical role in supporting, among other things, the unique cultural, spiritual, health and social needs of Two-Spirit/LGBTQ+ people within the MNO;

AND WHEREAS Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ people continue to face discrimination, prejudice, and lack of access to informed services and thus remain at higher risk of serious mental health challenges and suicide;

AND WHEREAS many Métis citizens actively practice allyship by reclaiming the Métis tradition of creating space for Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ within cultural, political and social contexts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario work with the Two-Spirit Working Group to develop and implement a Council Charter to work towards the creation of a Two-Spirit/LGBTQ+ Council.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-02)

(153 in favour; 17 opposed; 9 abstentions)

12.3 Ordinary Resolution: Investigating the Possibility of Compensating MNO Employees with a Living Wage

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. Comments were offered on: the important role that MNO staff provide; the intent of the resolution to direct the MNO to work toward ensuring the organization provides a sustainable wage to encourage Métis citizens to want to work for the MNO; a suggestion that the MNO work collaboratively with other Indigenous organizations that deliver equivalent programs to lobby the government for increased funding; understanding that achieving this resolution will take time, given how MNO is currently funded; ensuring that the MNO can afford any direction by the AGA; and the goal of the MNO to be an employer of choice.

It was MOVED (Evan Accettola) and SECONDED (Jordyn Playne)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario has over 250 hardworking and dedicated employees;

AND WHEREAS, as an employer, the Métis Nation of Ontario is morally responsible for caring for its employees and ensuring their basic needs are met;

AND WHEREAS, in 2022, according to Statistics Canada, the rate of consumer inflation in Canada continued to rise, reaching 8.1% year over year in June, following a 7.7% gain in May;

AND WHEREAS the cost of living within the land that we call Canada and Ontario continues to rise exponentially to levels not yet seen before;

AND WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments have underfunded the Métis Nation of Ontario regarding employee compensation. This can be seen when our funding and compensation structures are contextualized alongside the current compensation provided by other governments towards government employees in the same roles;

AND WHEREAS, by not paying a living wage to the Métis Nation of Ontario, we contribute to the impoverishment of our employees;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario does not have an official definition of a living wage nor a reporting structure surrounding the number of Métis Nation of Ontario employees receiving a living wage;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly direct the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario to establish a definition of and guidelines regarding compensating their employees with a fair living wage;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2022 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly directs the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario to review its Employee Compensation Framework, and identify and publish barriers and opportunities to advance towards paying a living wage to all Métis Nation of Ontario employees, both salaried and non-salaried, as well as efforts the Métis Nation of Ontario has already taken in this regard;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2022 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly direct the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario to establish reporting structures surrounding the number of Métis Nation of Ontario employees receiving a living wage as well as mandate a yearly report be published outlining the number of employees receiving a living wage, the number of employees not receiving a living wage, and the progress the Métis Nation of Ontario has made towards becoming a living wage employer per the previously established Métis Nation of Ontario living wage definition and guidelines;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2022 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly directs the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario to advocate to the federal and provincial governments regarding the establishment of increased funds to support paying a living wage to Métis Nation of Ontario employees.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-03)

(135 in favour; 22 opposed; 10 abstentions)

12.4 Ordinary Resolution: Involvement of Host Region Community Councils in AGAs

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. Comments were offered on: the intent of the resolution to involve the host Community Councils to ensure there are culturally appropriate foods and activities; and concerns that the resolution would have significant implications on Community Councils and staff as some Regions host many events.

It was MOVED (Luanne Cunningham) and SECONDED (Suzanne Brunelle)

WHEREAS the MNO exists to serve Métis Nation citizens and communities in Ontario;

WHEREAS Métis Nation communities are best positioned to identify and secure the products and services of Métis Nation businesses in their respective communities;

WHEREAS supporting Métis businesses, and the businesses of other Indigenous peoples, should be a top priority for the MNO and guide the sourcing of services and products for all MNO events and Annual General Assemblies (“AGAs”);

WHEREAS reclaiming traditional foodways is critical to resisting colonization and reconnecting with Métis Nation identity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that significant care and effort be made to provision Métis Nation food, crafts and performances for all MNO AGAs;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final decisions regarding the provisioning of services and products for MNO AGAs must involve the Community Councils of the host Region.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-04)

(127 in favour; 13 opposed; 5 abstentions)

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 10:06 a.m. and reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Rowlinson confirmed quorum was present with a total of 126 delegates in attendance.

12.5 Ordinary Resolution: Métis Arts Strategy

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. Comments were offered on: the importance of arts (and stories told through art) to Métis people; the intent of the resolution to direct the MNO to develop a strategy to acquire financial support; ensuring arts were properly funded; and a suggestion that the MNO investigate whether compensation can meet the CARFAC-RAAV (Canadian Artists Representation) minimum fee schedule rates.

It was MOVED (Evan Accettola) and SECONDED (Dylan Miner)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is developing an education and culture institute (i.e., The Powley Institute) as per previous direction of the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA);

AND WHEREAS, there is a need to support the growth, development, and ongoing support of the arts within our Métis communities;

AND WHEREAS, MNO Community Councils, other Métis governments, and non-Indigenous institutions are often interested in Métis artists and artisans speaking, conducting workshops, or sharing their artistic practices;

AND WHEREAS, the arts are important to the vibrancy of all human societies;

AND WHEREAS, the arts are particularly important for Métis communities and governments;

AND WHEREAS, the arts are central to past, present, and future of Métis self-governance;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the AGA direct that the MNO develop an arts and culture strategy that includes, but is not limited to:

- training and financial support for Métis artists, across a variety of artistic disciplines;
- the establishment or expansion of arts infrastructure within the MNO.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-05)

(135 in favour; 10 opposed; 5 abstentions)

12.6 Ordinary Business Resolution: Mapping Project to Address Areas Where Citizens Are Not Represented by a Community Council

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. Comments were offered on: the intent of the resolution to ensure all MNO citizens could access MNO community governance structures; reviewing the maps to include citizens outside the organized areas; and concerns that the resolution was specific to Region 6 although areas in Regions 7 and 9 lacked access to the governance structures.

It was MOVED (Andrew Dufrane) and SECONDED (Erik Gjos)

WHEREAS we are a people of the lands which nurture us today and which we value as the precious foundation of our future;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has established nine regional areas and 31 chartered Community Councils recognized by the MNO Bylaws to provide governance for where our citizens live;

AND WHEREAS some of our citizens live outside the currently defined areas of existing Community Councils;

AND WHEREAS in Region 6 there is an area where at least 245 citizens have no community level governance structure to support them;

AND WHEREAS we believe that there may be other areas in the MNO that have no Métis governance for citizens;

AND WHEREAS previous MNO Annual Reports have talked of mapping initiatives fostering community empowerment and development for Métis citizens (2019/20 Annual Report Métis Nation of Ontario);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO be directed to undertake a new mapping study to support Region 6, and all other MNO Regions and citizens, to identify areas where MNO citizens have no governance through a Community Council, or where geographical definition is imprecise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MNO develop a plan for governance and delivery of services, for all its citizens and report back on its findings and recommendations no later than at the MNO AGA in 2023.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-06)

(132 in favour; 8 opposed; 1 abstention)

12.7 Ordinary Business Resolution: Métis Nation of Ontario and R. v. Powley Anniversaries

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. Comments were offered on the importance of the *Powley* decision and the need to educate Métis citizens and Canadians on the importance of the decision.

It was MOVED (Mitch Case) and SECONDED (Hannah Bazinet)

WHEREAS 2023 will mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the 20th anniversary of our landmark victory in *R. v Powley*;

AND WHEREAS the impact of all the success our communities have seen since these two important events has changed the lives of our people in innumerable ways;

AND WHEREAS the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council has secured funds from Heritage Canada to develop a commemorative project to celebrate the Powley anniversary, including a permanent exhibit at the Sault Métis Centre, a traveling exhibit and a documentary;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 29th Annual General Assembly declare 2023 to be a Year of Special Recognition and direct the MNO Secretariat to seek funds from Ontario, Canada and other sources to support the MNO, including our Regions, Community Councils, and Advisory Councils to host events and activities to commemorate these two important events. Events and activities can include, but are not limited to:

- Hosting a youth art and writing contest
- Hosting community hunts, BBQs, fish fry's etc.
- Organizing a public education campaign utilizing the best tools available, such as virtual platforms, pod casts, to tell the story to Ontarians and Canadians
- Hosting oral history workshops for youth and MNO elders, senators, and former leaders to gather stories from the early days of the MNO and the Powley Case saga
- Creating an online course/website to educate on Powley and his legacy and/or Métis rights,
- Creation of children's books, classroom education materials to be distributed to Ontario schools
- Producing new materials (e.g., books, pamphlets, videos, website, etc.) on the history and culture of Métis communities in Ontario;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MNO propose to the Métis National Council jointly hosting a Métis Rights conference (similar to the Otipemisiwak conference hosted in 2020) to recognize the significance of these past 20 years and to look ahead to the future of Métis rights and that the proposed conference take place in Sault Ste. Marie, on or around September 19, 2023.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-07)

(139 in favour; 3 opposed; 2 abstentions)

12.8 Ordinary Business Resolution: Eligibility for Internal and External MNO Appointments

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. Support was expressed for developing a process and policy for identifying who represents Métis citizens on internal and external organizations.

It was MOVED (Mitch Case) and SECONDED (Hannah Bazinet)

WHEREAS the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) passed resolution PC210528-09 directing the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) administration to, among other things, undertake province-wide consultations with all citizens on the final report related to the MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (“**Registry Review**”) with a view to preparing and publicly releasing a “What We Heard Report” based on those consultations;

AND WHEREAS the province-wide consultation process took place between June 2021 and May 2022 and consisted of seven (7) virtual all-citizen town halls, one (1) virtual MNO leadership town hall, an online feedback portal, and an in-person MNO Leadership Rendezvous session;

AND WHEREAS on March 27, 2022, in response to preliminary feedback received from citizens during the consultations, the PCMNO adopted, in principle, the draft *MNO Policy #2022-001: Eligibility for Internal and External MNO Appointments* for further engagement with MNO Community Councils;

AND WHEREAS the additional engagements have not yet been completed, but the current draft of the policy provides that it “shall be brought to the MNO AGA for its consideration and potential adoption”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 MNO AGA DIRECTS:

1. The MNO administration, consistent with the PCMNO’s direction, to engage with MNO Community Councils on the development of and further revisions to the draft *MNO Policy #2022-001: Eligibility for Internal and External MNO Appointments*, which is attached at Appendix A⁹ to this resolution.

RESOLVED AGA220821-08)

(132 in favour; 12 opposed; 2 abstentions)

12.9 Ordinary Resolution: Adoption by Métis Citizens

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. Comments offered in support for the resolution, included: there is currently no mechanism in which to obtain citizenship for, and access to, services and supports for adopted children of Métis citizens. Comments offered in opposition to the resolution, included: this issue should be addressed in MNO’s Constitution and Citizenship Act (to be established); and the MNO should deal with unstated paternity in any policy to be developed. General comments offered, included: concern that culture should not be measured by blood quotient; there is a need for the MNO to address the issue of people claiming to be Métis when they are not; there is a need to ensure the MNO is representing rights-bearing people; and recognition that customary adoptions were part of Métis tradition and that the issue was complex, from a historic and contemporary context.

It was MOVED (Lorette McKnight) and SECONDED (Pierre Lefebvre)

WHEREAS the MNO needs to address the important issue of adopted children by Métis citizens;

WHEREAS adopted children by Métis citizens do not qualify to be added to the citizenship list thus eliminating them to participate in many MNO programs and services;

WHEREAS the MNO does not have a policy to address acceptance of adopted children by Métis citizens as citizens;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The issue of adoption by Métis citizens be discussed by the PCMNO; and
- The MNO report progress on the issue of adoption to citizens within one (1) year or at the next AGA.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-09)

(89 in favour; 60 opposed; 6 abstentions)

⁹ *MNO Policy #2022-001, Eligibility for Internal and External MNO Appointments*, is posted on the MNO AGA [website](#)

12.10 Ordinary Resolution: Framework for MNO Environmental Policy

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. Comments were offered on: the importance of the environment (i.e., air, water, land and earth) in work and projects, including any land purchased by the MNO; opposition given that each Region has a right to govern their own lands and resources and there should not be one policy that applies to all Regions; and a suggestion that the word “engage” be changed to “meaningfully consult”.

It was MOVED (Suzanne Brunelle) and SECONDED (Brian Black)

WHEREAS the Métis are a People of the Land;

WHEREAS the Statement of Prime Purpose states that we, the Métis, of the Métis Nation of Ontario, value the lands as “the precious foundation of our future”;

WHEREAS the Statement of Prime Purpose states that we, the Métis of the Métis Nation of Ontario, have respect “for the land and for the animal and plant life that surround us”;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation of Ontario develop the framework for a Métis Nation of Ontario Environmental Protection Policy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario strike an Environmental Working Group to consider developing the policy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario meaningfully consult Councils and citizens in the development of the framework and the development of the Environmental Protection Policy.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-10)

(103 in favour; 21 opposed; 7 abstentions)

12.11 Ordinary Resolution: Financial Support for MNO Women’s, Veteran’s, and Youth Councils and 2S Working Group

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. Comments were offered on scheduling a preliminary meeting with the PCMNO.

It was MOVED (Jordyn Playne) and SECONDED (Suzanne Jackson)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) passed resolution AGA17-06 by consensus;

WHEREAS despite the resolution passing by consensus in 2017, the MNO has neglected to act on the resolution;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran’s Council (MNOVC), Métis Nation of Ontario Women’s Council (MNOWC), Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) and Two-Spirit (2S) LGBTQ+ Working Group continue to do incredible work for their constituents and for the entire provincial Métis community, yet currently receive no funding from the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat;

WHEREAS the MNOVC, MNOWC, MNOYC and 2SLGBTQ+ Working Group are provincial in scope and mandate; and

WHEREAS the MNOVC, MNOWC, MNOYC and 2SLGBTQ+ Working Group continue to play a vital role in promoting Métis community, culture and values – including the Statement of Prime Purpose – and support many of our community members in their person journey as Métis people;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2SLGBTQ+ Working Group be added to the list of councils that the AGA directed the MNO to hold the preliminary meeting with under AGA17-06;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the preliminary meeting approved under AGA17-06 be scheduled within 60 days of the 2022 Annual General Assembly pursuant to the other direction provided under that resolution.

RESOLVED (AGA220821-11)

(96 in favour; 25 opposed; 3 abstentions)

13. Additional Update Reports

Chair Rowlinson confirmed that the videos and presentations related to Agenda Item 13, “Additional Update Reports”, would be posted to the [MNO AGA website](#):

13.1 Métis Infinity Investments

13.2 Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF)

13.4 Prosperity Trust

13.5 Housing and Infrastructure.

MNO 2022 AGA – BUSINESS MEETING CONCLUDES

Chair Rowlinson thanked citizens for their participation in the 2022 AGA and extended appreciation to the MNO staff, host Community Councils, and hotel staff, for their work in supporting a successful Assembly.

President Froh thanked the Chair, Vice-Chair, citizens, leadership, staff, and volunteers for their participation and contributions to a successful 29th AGA, and reviewed updates and discussions held over two days. Gratitude was extended to the PCMNO, Advisory Councils, Branch staff, allies and friends who presented, and to all the Community Council leaders and volunteers. Delegates were assured that the MNO would follow up on the actions coming out of the City of Toronto apology. It was noted that the 2023 AGA would be hosted in Ottawa, with celebrations to include recognition of the 20th Anniversary of the *Powley* decision and 30th Anniversary of the MNO.

CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

The 29th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly, held August 19-21, 2022 concluded on Day 3 – August 21, 2022 at 12:12 p.m. Senator Garry Laframboise offered a Closing Prayer.

* * * *

This is a true and correct copy of the 29th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 19-21, 2022 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
CFO	Chief Financial Officer

COTH	Captains of the Hunt
ELCC	Early Learning and Child Care
IBAs	Impact Benefit Agreements
ICT	Information, Communications and Technology
IGR	Intergovernmental Relations
LFMO	Les Femme Michif Otipemisiwak
LRC	Lands, Resources and Consultations
MGRSA	Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement
MII	Métis Infinity Investments
MNA	Métis Nation of Alberta
MNBC	Métis Nation British Columbia
MNC	Métis National Council
MNO	Métis Nation of Ontario
MNOVC	Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran's Council
MNOWC	Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council
MNOYC	Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council
MP	Member of Parliament
MN-S	Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
MVDF	Métis Voyageur Development Fund
NDP	New Democrat Party
NRF	New Relationship Fund
PCMNO	Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario
PST	Pape Salter Teillet
RIA	Regional Implementation Agreement
TLE	Treaty Land Entitlement
UN	United Nations
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

List of Reference Materials

The following reference materials were available to participants at the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 19-21, 2022, and were posted online at www.mnoaga.ca:

- MNO Bylaws
- MNO Standing Rules
- Métis Rules of Order
- MNO Cultural Commission By-Laws
- AGA Business:
 - o MNO AGA 2022 Special Business Resolutions
 - o Process for Conducting Special Business at a General Assembly
 - o MNO AGA 20221 Draft Minutes
 - o MNO AGA 2021 Record of Resolutions
- Administrative Reports:
 - o Region 1
 - o Region 2
 - o Region 5
 - o Region 6
 - o Region 8
 - o Region 9
 - o PCMNO Youth Representative
 - o PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative
 - o PCMNO Executive Senator Rene Gravelle (video)
- MNO Advisory Councils and Working Groups:
 - o MNO Women's Council (video)

- MNO Youth Council
- MNO Veteran's Council
- Two-Spirit Working Group
- Economic Updates:
 - Métis Voyageur Development Fund
 - Métis Infinity Investments
 - Infinity Trust
 - Prosperity Trust
- Reference Documents:
 - Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose (English and French)
 - MNO Bylaws
 - Métis Rules of Order
 - Draft Métis Rules of Order
 - Draft MNO Code of Conduct
 - Draft MNO Conflict of Interest & Confidentiality Policy
 - MNO Policy 2022-002 re Verification of MNO Citizenship File Status and to Other Governments and Third-Party Institutions
 - MNO Policy 2021-001 re Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services
 - Draft MNO Policy re Eligibility for Internal and External MNO Appointments (for engagement)
 - What We Heard Report
- Economic Development:
 - MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law
 - MNO Policy on Local and Regional Opportunities on Business Opportunities
- AGA Supplemental Delegates Kit:
 - Ontario and the Métis Nation of Ontario Announce Identification of Six Additional Historic Métis Communities
 - MNO-MNRF Framework Agreement on Harvesting 2018
 - Evidence of Key Findings in the Powley Case – Fact Sheet
 - Identification of Historic Métis Communities – Fact Sheet
 - Implementation of the National Definition – Fact Sheet
 - The Independent Review of the MNO's Harvester Card System – Fact Sheet
 - MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting – Fact Sheet
 - Registry & Self-Government Readiness Project – Fact Sheet
 - Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement
 - Letter from Minister Bennett to President Froh
 - Draft ordinary Resolution on Métis Self-Government
 - Métis Nation of Ontario Registry and Self-Government Readiness Review Report
 - Métis Nation of Ontario Registry review Process Upheld – Green v. Métis Nation of Ontario – case summary
 - Métis Nation of Ontario Registry and Self-Government Readiness Review Supplemental Report
 - Communication to MNO citizens on Registry Review
 - Draft Ordinary Resolution on Registry Review Process
 - "Indigenous or Pretender" – CBC News Article
 - "Questions raised about celebrated Métis Healer's Indigenous Identity" – CBC News Article
 - "Indigenous Academics 'validated' by report urging Queen's to verify identity claims" – CBC News Article
- Other Links:
 - Help Desk Number: 1-613-798-1488, Ext. 111 or 110