



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO 30TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECORD OF DECISIONS

**FOR THE MEETING HELD
August 18 – 20, 2023**

The following is a list of resolutions passed by the 30th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly:

Adoption of the 2023 Annual General Assembly Agenda

It was MOVED (Jonnathon Marconi) and SECONDED (Derrick Pont)

That the Agenda for the 30th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly, scheduled August 18-20, 2023, be adopted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA230818-01)

Adoption of the 2022 AGA Minutes

It was MOVED (Ron LePage) and SECONDED (Brady Hupet)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 19-21, 2022, be adopted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA230818-02)

Adoption of the 2023 Special Assembly Minutes

It was MOVED (Christian Snejdar) and SECONDED (Derrick Pont)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation of Ontario Special General Assembly held June 176, 2023, be adopted with corrections to the spelling of the names of the observers on page 11 as follows:

- Change "Lisa Pigott" to "Lisa Pigeau"
- Change "Trent Desaulnier" to "Trent Desaulniers Sr."
- Change "Donna Graham" to "Donna Grenier".

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA230818-03)

Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

It was MOVED (Lorette McKnight) and SECONDED (Tim Sinclair)

That the 2023 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly appoint the following to the Resolution Committee:

- Ron LePage
- Teagan Neufeld
- Suzanne Fortin.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA230818-04)

Approval of the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements

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

That the 30th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly adopt the Métis Nation of Ontario Audited Financial Statements, for the year ended March 31, 2023, as presented.

RESOLVED (AGA230819-01)

(196 in favour; 22 opposed; 12 abstentions)

Appointment of the Auditor

It was MOVED (Kathleen Anderson) and SECONDED (Tim Sinclair)

That the 30th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly appoint Baker Tilly, Ottawa LLP, as the Métis Nation of Ontario Auditor for 2023-2024.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA230819-02)

Ordinary Resolution: Revitalizing Ontario Métis Stories, Histories, Alliances and Relationships

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

WHEREAS beginning in the late 1700s distinct Métis communities emerged along the fur trade routes and waterways in some parts of what would ultimately be recognized as the province of Ontario and before Canada became Canada; and

WHEREAS these Métis people and their communities (often described or known as “Halfbreeds” in the historic record) developed their own group identities, culture, way of life, and were interconnected to each other as well as to other Métis communities that emerged in the North-West which form the Métis Nation today; and

WHEREAS despite being historically acknowledged and/or recognized as distinct Indigenous communities by other Indigenous peoples, the Crown, outsiders, and settlers, Ontario Métis were largely excluded from the historic treaty-making process with the exception of the “Halfbreeds of Rainy River and Lake” collectively adhering to Treaty 3 in 1875; and

WHEREAS the history of Ontario Métis—and the impacts of the Crown’s failure to recognize these Métis communities and their unique rights and interests—has often been ignored, misunderstood, disparaged, or denied as a part of the process of colonization in Canada; and

WHEREAS despite successive Crown governments denying the very existence of Ontario Métis, these distinct Métis communities—with their own unique histories, identities, culture, and way of life—have persevered to ensure colonization, ignorance, and the power of Canadian law to deny, control, destroy, and exterminate Indigenous communities does not succeed and make Ontario Métis a mere fact of history; and

WHEREAS these Métis communities joined with other Indigenous peoples, including non-status Indians in the mid 1900s, to push for recognition through pan-Aboriginal organizations that ultimately led to Métis inclusion—as a distinct Aboriginal people—in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* (“**Section 35**”); and

WHEREAS despite express Métis inclusion in Section 35 the subsequent constitutional conferences held in the 1980s as well as the Charlottetown Accord constitutional process—which led to the negotiation of the Métis Nation Accord in 1992—ultimately ended in failure; and

WHEREAS a distinct group of Ontario Métis and their communities, along with other Métis from western Canada who now make Ontario home, came together in 1993 to create the Métis Nation of Ontario (“**MNO**”)—as a distinct Métis government—with its upmost priority being the advancement of its citizens and communities, including implementing the inherent Métis right to self-determination and self-government; and

WHEREAS within the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose—that has guided the MNO’s development and evolution as a Métis government over the last 30 years—the following objectives are identified as priorities:

- to research, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and to establish and maintain a registry of the Métis Citizens of Ontario;
- to promote the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage;
- to ensure that Métis can exercise their Aboriginal and Treaty rights and freedoms and in so doing, act in a spirit of cooperation with other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people;
- to establish good relations and maintain our historic alliances with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals; and

WHEREAS in 1996 the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Final Report (“**RCAP**”) was publicly released and included important research, conclusions, and recommendations about the Métis Nation and Ontario Métis communities, including:

... [a]ncestors of today’s Métis Nation established communities in parts of what is called the Métis Nation homeland in north central North America. The better-known settlements were at Sault Ste. Marie in present-day Ontario ...

It is indisputable that the distinct Métis communities of Ontario — in locations as widespread as ... Moose Factory (on James Bay), Sault Ste. Marie and Rainy River (in the north and west of Thunder Bay) — have long and unique histories, as well as indisputable claims to recognition of their Aboriginal origins and entitlements; and

WHEREAS despite the findings and recommendations within RCAP and the facts of history that confirm the existence of Ontario Metis, the Ontario Government denied the very existence of Ontario Métis communities—and any Métis rights “whatsoever” in the province in the 1990s; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Government’s denial of all Métis in the province required the MNO to advance the *Powley* case—as a Métis rights test case—for all Ontario Métis (as well as the entire Métis Nation) all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada; and

WHEREAS during the *Powley* decision’s decade long litigation battle—that culminated in a unanimous Supreme Court of Canada decision being rendered on September 19, 2003—the facts of Métis history at Sault Ste Marie and the Upper Great Lakes began to be better understood and shared within the governments, the public-at-large, and First Nations; and

WHEREAS following the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in *Powley*—and based on historic and contemporary relationships—the MNO and the Chiefs of Ontario signed a Political Protocol in 2004 that committed the parties to work together on common issues and the MNO engaged in ceremonies with the Anishinabek Nation to rekindle historic alliances; and

WHEREAS following the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in *Powley* the MNO began processes of engagement and ultimately negotiations with both Ontario and Canada in order to implement Section 35 as well as the *Powley* decision in Ontario; and

WHEREAS in 2010—following the election of new First Nation leadership—the MNO-Chiefs of Ontario Political Protocol was unilaterally cancelled by First Nations without any explanation to the MNO and the MNO’s offers to meet have been for the most part refused; and

WHEREAS despite the refusal of the Chiefs of Ontario and Anishinabek Nation to meet with the MNO, relationships between Métis and First Nations continue to exist at a personal and familial level, and some formal and informal relationships continue to exist at the local level; and

WHEREAS despite the lack of formal engagement or dialogue between the MNO and Ontario First Nations, the MNO has continued to pursue reconciliation with Crown governments to ensure the promise of Section 35 and the *Powley* case are implemented; and

WHEREAS over the last 20 years of hard work, dedication, and collaboration between Métis citizens, communities, the MNO, and Crown governments has resulted in:

- harvesting agreements, framework agreements, the formal recognition of seven (7) historic Métis communities in Ontario and many other agreements being negotiated with the Ontario Government; and
- the evolution of the MNO Registry into an objectively verifiable system that identifies Métis rights-holders as well as formal negotiations with the Federal Government on Métis claims and self-government, including the signing of the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement in June 2019, the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Implementation Agreement in February 2023, and the introduction of Métis self-government legislation into Parliament in June 2023; and

WHEREAS despite these successes it has become increasingly apparent in recent months that the media and the public-at-large remain largely unaware of Ontario Métis history that is well-documented and has been repeatedly recognized by governments, RCAP, *Powley*, and the courts; and

WHEREAS some academics—who hold themselves out to be “experts” on Métis history and identity without any qualifications or objectiveness—are increasingly promoting themselves and fraudulent narratives that the only “real Métis” come from the Red River (despite the Powleys, the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community, other Ontario Métis communities as well as Métis communities in other parts of western Canada not being simply diaspora communities from Manitoba); and

WHEREAS due to the lack of any opportunity to engage with First Nations in recent years, misinformation about the MNO, the MNO Registry, Ontario Métis history, Métis rights, and the agreements the MNO has negotiated and signed with other Crown governments have increasingly caused friction in our relationships and previous alliance with First Nations; and

WHEREAS the MNO—as a Métis government—that will always continue to work to advance the rights and interests of its citizens and the Métis communities it represents in Ontario has an obligation to pursue education and information initiatives on Ontario Métis history as well as build

relationships and partnerships with First Nations, public institutions, media, Crown governments, and the public-at-large:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023 MNO Annual General Assembly directs the MNO to consult on, develop, and implement the following strategy if appropriate funding and budgets can be secured and/or identified by the PCMNO:

1. The MNO develop and initiate a multi-year and multi-faceted strategy entitled “**Revitalizing Our Stories, Histories, Alliances, and Relationships**” that may include the following components:

- a. **Telling Our Stories and Histories**

- i. Launching a R. v. *Powley*: 20 Year Anniversary video.
 - ii. Writing and publishing an MNO 30 Year Anniversary Book: Our Story So Far to be released in late 2023 or 2024.
 - iii. Host an annual “Telling Our Stories Conference” to bring Métis youth, Elders, community leaders, and citizens together to share our history and stories.
 - iv. Identifying opportunities and publishing materials that better explain Ontario Métis history and the seven (7) rights-bearing Métis communities the MNO represents in user-friendly, interactive, and readable formats as well as materials that better explain the MNO as a Métis government, the agreements the MNO has with other governments, where Métis land related rights exist (and don’t exist) in Ontario, etc.
 - v. Documenting the stories of Elders and Métis families through interviews, videos, and mechanisms that preserve Ontario Métis stories for future generations.
 - vi. Commission updated historic reports on the Métis communities that the MNO represents that incorporate additional research that has been undertaken as well as the work in the MNO Root Ancestors documents.
 - vii. Update the MNO website to include more information on Ontario Métis history, including, the creation and evolution of the MNO.
 - viii. Undertake Métis journalism initiatives, including establishing a Métis journalism endowment.

- b. **Building an Ontario Métis Educational Institute**

- i. Work with governments to secure funding for the establishment of a Métis educational institute (i.e., The Powley Institute: A Centre of Excellence for Ontario Métis) like what Métis governments in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta have in order to research, publish, and promote Ontario Métis history.
 - ii. Establishing a working group of advisors and academics, including, Ontario Métis academics and that may include students, writers, and Métis community knowledge-holders, to share research and information, advise the MNO on research needs and opportunities, identify and undertake research priorities, etc.
 - iii. Work with Ontario educational institutions to identify opportunities to research and promote Ontario Métis history as well as put increased focus on ensuring the Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa is achieving results for Ontario Métis.

- c. **Rekindling and Renewing Our Historic Alliances and Relationships with First Nations**

- i. Attempt to meet with First Nations leadership in person to discuss this strategy.

- ii. Develop and send letters to all Ontario First Nation Chiefs as well as an open letter to First Nation friends, family, and kin that explains the current situation from the MNO's perspective and request dialogue or meetings to occur. These letters will also include information about Ontario Métis history, the MNO, Métis rights, etc.
- iii. Work with willing First Nations to enter into potential arrangements that acknowledge where the MNO does not claim land related Métis rights or interests, but where significant populations of Métis may now live as guests in the traditional territories of First Nations.
- iv. Work with willing First Nations to enter into potential arrangements that acknowledge historic alliances, the differences between Métis and First Nations rights in a given region, and/or mechanisms to work together more broadly or on specific issues (i.e., MNO support for specific Treaty Land Entitlements, Additions to Reserves or other settlements).

d. Defending Métis Youth, Families, and Communities

- i. Creation of social media accounts, as distinct from the MNO as a Métis government, to educate on Ontario Métis history as well as respond or 'fact check' misinformation that is being circulated online.
 - ii. Promoting Ontario Métis history, identity, rights, and culture to ensure that Métis youth are not bullied or harassed online and to create an environment where Ontario Métis identity and pride is nurtured and flourishes.
 - iii. Writing letters to educational institutions to make sure Métis students feel safe.
2. That any engagement with First Nations in a given region be driven by the Métis community in that region in order to respect historic relationships, protocols, and alliance between the Métis and First Nations that are of those territories.
 3. That any communications materials prepared in relation to this resolution, related to a specific Métis community represented by the MNO, be subject to that community's approval.
 4. That the "Revitalizing Our Stories, Histories, Alliances, and Relationships" strategy be an evolving document, which the MNO will undertake ongoing consultations on with citizens and communities, and that results from the strategy will be guided by the PCMNO and a report on the strategy will be made to every MNO Annual General Assembly going forward.
 5. This document will be translated into French, Michif, and Anishinabek.

RESOLVED (AGA230819-03)

(257 in favour; 22 opposed; 3 abstentions)

Special Business Resolution #23-AGA-01: Special Resolution on Respecting Democratic Will of Citizens and Undertaking Future Work on Constitution Related Issues

It was MOVED (Margaret Froh) and SECONDED (Tim Sinclair)

WHEREAS the advancement of Métis rights, including the Métis right to self-determination and self-government, is of upmost priority for the MNO;

AND WHEREAS in 2017, the MNO initiated a Registry Review to assess the completeness of all citizenship files based on the current requirements set out in the MNO Bylaws and *MNO Registry Policy*;

AND WHEREAS following the completion of the Registry Review, the MNO conducted a province-wide Plebiscite where all MNO citizens, including those with incomplete files, had an opportunity to vote on whether to remove citizens with incomplete files from the MNO Registry;

AND WHEREAS in the Plebiscite a total of 8,270 MNO citizens voted, and 71% voted in favour of removing citizens with incomplete files;

AND WHEREAS to implement the overwhelming direction and democratic will of MNO citizens, an MNO Special Assembly was held in June 2023 to make the necessary changes to the MNO Bylaws and *MNO Registry Policy* to remove MNO citizens with incomplete files;

AND WHEREAS the MNO will be developing a Constitution and Métis laws where issues related to the MNO's future governance structures and outstanding issues raised in the Registry Review "What We Heard" report will be considered;

AND WHEREAS the MNO has committed to undertaking a province-wide ratification vote on a future Constitution that all MNO citizens will be provided an opportunity to vote on;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to ensure the views of all MNO citizens—as Métis rights-holders—and rights-bearing Métis communities are considered in relation to any changes to the MNO's current citizenship requirements, governance structures, and the Statement of Prime Purpose, as a part of the future development of a Constitution and Métis laws;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023 MNO AGA resolves that:

1. Article 57 of the MNO Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

The MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose may be repealed or amended consistent with article 61(a) of these Bylaws.

2. the following provision be added as subsection (a) to Article 61 of the MNO Bylaws:

Any changes to the MNO's current citizenship requirements, existing governance structures, or the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose as set out in these Bylaws or the *MNO Registry Policy* require either: (1) the unanimous approval of a Special Resolution by the General Assembly (either at an AGA or special meeting); (2) the approval of a Special Resolution passed by two consecutive General Assemblies (AGAs and/or special meetings); (3) the adoption of a Métis law dealing with these issues; or (4) the ratification of a constitution through a province-wide vote that is brought to the General Assembly (AGA or special meeting) for implementation.

RESOLVED (AGA230819-04)

(190 in favour; 59 opposed; 28 abstentions)

Special Business Resolution #23-AGA-02: s. 18 of MNO Registry Policy (August 2019) Proof of Historic Métis Ancestry

It was MOVED (Paul Belcourt) and SECONDED (Timothy Cote)

WHEREAS the applicant must prove Historic Métis Nation ancestry by providing evidence of a genealogical connection to a Métis ancestor who lived in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland after 1750

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that s.18 of MNO Registry Policy (August 2019) Proof of Historic Métis Ancestry be changed to read as follows:

the applicant must prove Historic Métis Nation ancestry by providing evidence of a genealogical connection to a Métis ancestor who lived in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland after 1750. Such evidence also includes, any government historical document, oral history, MNO sponsored record documents that endorses Métis Heritage.

DEFEATED

(37 in favour; 223 opposed; 8 abstentions)

Special Business Resolution #23-AGA-06: Special Resolution to Amend the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose's Aims and Objectives in Furtherance of Clearly Affirming Métis Rights

It was MOVED (Jonas Weselake-George) and SECONDED (Veda Weselake)

WHEREAS, Canada's 1982 *Constitution Act* recognises and affirms Métis rights as a form of constitutionally protected Aboriginal rights;

AND WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Canada in the decision *R. v. Van der Peet*, found that s.35 of Canada's Constitution *protects those rights integral to the survival of a distinctive culture*;

AND WHEREAS, those rights which are essential to our survival must never be lost;

AND WHEREAS, "inalienable rights" is the internationally accepted way to describe rights which cannot be legitimately taken away, given up, or lost;

AND WHEREAS, while we have long considered our rights as central to our survival, it remains important to communicate clearly and continuously that we consider these rights to be as inalienable as other human rights;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the aims and objectives section of the Métis Nation of Ontario's *Statement of Prime Purpose* be amended with an additional line, worded as follows:

"- to demonstrate our commitment to the inalienability of Aboriginal rights, and in doing so, our commitment to the inalienability of our rights as Métis;"

AND that this additional line be located as the 14th 'aim and objective' (i.e. positioned directly below "to ensure that Métis can exercise their Aboriginal and Treaty rights and freedoms and in so doing, act in a spirit of cooperation with other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people" but above "to establish good relations and maintain our historic alliances with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals").

DEFEATED

(48 in favour; 168 opposed; 25 abstentions)

Special Business Resolution #23-AGA-08: Special Resolution on Harvester Card Term and Fees

It was MOVED (Margaret Froh) and SECONDED (Sharon Cadeau)

WHEREAS the MNO desires to align the term and renewal dates for MNO Harvesters Cards (also referred to as Harvesters Certificates) and new MNO citizenship cards;

AND WHEREAS the *MNO Harvesting Policy* (Schedule A) and the *MNO Registry Policy* (s. 28) provide that MNO Harvesters Cards are valid for a term of 3 years, whereas new MNO citizenship cards are valid for a term of 5 years;

AND WHEREAS article 8 of the MNO Bylaws provides that "fees or dues, if any, shall be at the direction of the PCMNO";

AND WHEREAS the PCMNO passed resolution no. PC201003-06 directing the MNO “to waive the collection of fees for applications and renewals for Citizenship and Harvesting Cards on a permanent basis”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023 MNO AGA resolves that:

1. section 1 of Schedule A of the *MNO Harvesting Policy* be amended to now read as follows:

Harvesters Certificates shall have a maximum term of validity of 5 years, which term shall align with the issue and renewal dates of the MNO citizen’s MNO citizenship card. Harvesters Certificates issued under previous versions of this policy and/or the *MNO Registry Policy* shall continue with the original expiry/renewal date specified. To allow for harmonization of these two terms, MNO citizens who have an active Harvesters Certificate on file at the time of renewal of their MNO citizenship card, will be re-issued a 5-year Harvesters Certificate at that time.

2. section 2 of Schedule A of the *MNO Harvesting Policy* be amended to now read as follows:

The fee for a Harvesters Certificate, if any, shall be set by the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

3. section 28 of the *MNO Registry Policy—Guidelines* be amended to now read as follows:

Harvesters Cards shall have a maximum term of validity of 5 years, which term shall align with the issue and renewal dates of the MNO citizen’s MNO citizenship card. Harvesters Cards issued under previous versions of this policy and/or the *MNO Harvesting Policy* shall continue with the original expiry/renewal date specified. To allow for harmonization of these two terms, MNO citizens who have an active Harvesters Card on file at the time of renewal of their MNO citizenship card, will be re-issued a 5-year Harvesters Card at that time.

RESOLVED (AGA230820-01)

(206 in favour; 21 opposed; 4 abstentions)

Special Business Resolution #23-AGA-10: Special Resolution on Traditional Harvesting Territories Map in MNO Registry Policy

It was MOVED (Margaret Froh) and SECONDED (Hank Rowlinson)

WHEREAS the MNO desires to align the map in the *MNO Registry Policy* that was used as a part of the 2004 Interim Harvesting Agreement with Ontario with the updated and current Traditional Harvesting Territories map that is in the 2018 MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting (“**2018 Harvesting Agreement**”);

AND WHEREAS the MNO remains committed to further internal discussions to refine the current Traditional Harvesting Territories map, as part of the MNO’s broader commitment under the 2018 Harvesting Agreement to modify the map in future based on further research and negotiations with Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023 MNO AGA resolves that:

1. the outdated map at Appendix A of the *MNO Registry Policy* be replaced with the map included at Schedule C of the 2018 Harvesting Agreement and that all other related MNO communications materials and/or policies be similarly updated.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA230820-02)

Special Business Resolution #23-AGA-11: Special Resolution to Amend MNO Secretariat Bylaw Section 14

It was MOVED (Suzanne Jackson) and SECONDED (Lynn Gouliquer)

WHEREAS according to current MNO Secretariat Bylaws: Dated June 17, 2023 Version: Provisional Council of the MNO ("PCMNO")

"S 14. The PCMNO shall make decisions and act in a manner consistent with upholding and advancing the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and shall take its direction from and shall report to the General Assembly. The property and business of the MNO shall be managed by a council of nineteen (19) elected citizens who shall be called councillors and shall sit on the Provisional Council of the MNO ("PCMNO"). The PCMNO shall consist of: president, chair, vice-chair, secretary- treasurer, four (4) senators, one [1] representative from each of the nine (9) regions, one (1) post secondary representative and one (1) youth.

- (a) Regional Councillors shall be Ordinarily Resident in the region in which they are elected for the duration of their term of office.
- (b) Only MNO citizens may be councillors of the MNO.
- (c) With the exception of appointments made to fill vacancies pursuant to section 23, the councillors may not appoint additional councillors to the PCMNO."

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC) has been the organized and recognized voice for Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) women for over two decades.

AND WHEREAS the MNOWC has a current citizenship list of 10,000+ MNO women citizens.

AND WHEREAS the MNOWC represents the interests of those Métis women within the MNO for the betterment and promotion of all MNO women and the MNO in its entirety.

AND WHEREAS Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2 Spirit+ (MMIWG2S+) continue to face extensive violence and discrimination in our Métis communities, thus representation of Métis women's voices is urgently needed and must be deemed essential at the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO).

AND WHEREAS the MNOWC does require fair and equitable representation on the PCMNO to adequately fulfill their elected role.

AND WHEREAS the current structure of the PCMNO does not allow for MNOWC representation on the PCMNO.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023 MNO AGA resolves the following:

1. That the President of the MNOWC have a voice, vote and seat on the PCMNO.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2023 MNO AGA amends the MNO Secretariat Bylaws: AGA Dated June 17, 2023 Version S14 as follows:

1. MNO Secretariat Bylaw 14
 - a) remove "nineteen (19) and replace with twenty (20)
 - b) Add "and the president of the MNOWC

To read:

The PCMNO shall make decisions and act in a manner consistent with upholding and advancing the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and shall take its direction from and shall report to the General Assembly. The property and business of the MNO shall be managed by a council of

twenty (20) elected citizens who shall be called councillors and shall sit on the Provisional Council of the MNO ("PCMNO"). The PCMNO shall consist of: president, chair, vice-chair, secretary-treasurer, four (4) senators, one (1) representative from each of the nine (9) regions, one (1) post secondary representative, one (1) youth and the president of the MNOWC.

- (a) Regional Councillors shall be Ordinarily Resident in the region in which they are elected for the duration of their term of office.
- (b) Only MNO citizens may be councillors of the MNO.
- (c) With the exception of appointments made to fill vacancies pursuant to section 23, the councillors may not appoint additional councillors to the PCMNO."

DEFEATED

(93 in favour; 140 opposed; 11 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution #OR-01: Creation of an MNO Youth Branch

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

WHEREAS: The current structure of the Métis Nation of Ontario public service does not have a centralized Branch for Métis Youth specific work and projects;

AND WHEREAS: the current gap in a centralized department leads to confusion and lack of consistency;

AND WHEREAS: while we remain under resourced and understaffed, the ineffective and inefficient use of resources is not in the best interest of the MNO;

AND WHEREAS: The portfolio for youth is extensive and requires frequent, direct consultation with Youth from across the Province;

AND WHEREAS: The Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council represent the Youth in each Region of the Métis Nation of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS: the demand for Youth specific programs and services is rapidly increasing;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the 30th assembly direct the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario seek out long-term, sustainable funding for the creation and development of a Youth Branch within the public service sector of the Métis Nation of Ontario;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: the PCMNO and MNO Administration, within six months of the Assembly meet with the MNOYC to co-develop a workplan to ensure the creation of a Youth Branch meetings the needs of Métis Youth in the province of Ontario.

RESOLVED (AGA230820-03)

(154 in favour; 45 opposed; 7 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution #OR-03: Resolution MMIWG – Searching the Landfill in Manitoba

It was MOVED (Kate Stewart-McNeil) and SECONDED (Ricki Strapp)

WHEREAS the reality of Missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit plus people exists, and is of extreme importance;

AND WHEREAS the intersection of identity and experience places impoverished women, girls, and two-spirit plus people at heightened risk;

AND WHEREAS the human remains of Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran, as well as those of Buffalo women are believed to be in the Prairie Green landfill;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2023 AGA of the MNO echoes the call for all levels of government to demand the landfill in Manitoba be searched.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA230820-04)

Ordinary Resolution #OR-02: Resolution to Improve Michif Language Programming and Preservation

It was MOVED (Sebastion Koprach) and SECONDED (Lynne Picotte)

WHEREAS Michif is the predominant dialects rooted in some Ontario Metis citizens ancestry;

AND WHEREAS current MNO Michif languages resources and efforts to preserve the language are limited;

AND WHEREAS there is a real concern for the preservation of the Michif languages for future generations;

AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO look into seeking funds for the language branch to attempt to organize monthly Michif languages workshops in dialects relevant to the region and territory accessible for all MNO citizens;

AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO promote languages resources to MNO citizens.

RESOLVED (AGA230820-05)

(172 in favour; 16 opposed; 9 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution #OR-04: Infinity Investments Strategic Review

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

WHEREAS Infinity Investments was established by the MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law;

AND WHEREAS “the goal of this Law is to enable the MNO to build a strong, stable and self-sustaining economic base upon which it can pursue, advance and achieve the objectives set out in its Statement of Prime Purpose as well as fulfill its roles and responsibilities to Métis citizens and communities for generations to come”;

AND WHEREAS Infinity Investments have had some successes in their work to implement the aforementioned law, but there have also been concerns raised by communities;

AND WHEREAS there are always ways to grow and improve for the communities we represent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the PCMNO initiate a strategic review of Infinity Investments with the goal of strengthening the results for our communities.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA230820-06)

Ordinary Resolution #OR-06: Washing Machine Filters

It was MOVED (Shirley Debassige) and SECONDED (Kevin Rath)

WHEREAS Métis are water warriors and water guardians;

WHEREAS Our Sacred waters that flow through our lakes, rivers and oceans are rapidly turning into a plastic soup - awash with 14 billion tons of tiny, toxic microplastic particles that will never break down;

WHEREAS there is an easy way to stem this pollution - it's just not being done;

WHEREAS a full third of microplastics come from laundry and can be stopped with a simple filter which washing machine manufacturers have been reluctant to install to save costs;

WHEREAS washing machine filters can capture 90% of the microplastic fibers that shed from synthetic fabrics such as polyester and nylon as it spins, preventing these toxic threads reaching our Sacred waterways;

WHEREAS it is possible to purchase filters to capture microplastics for all washing machines while still lobbying to have them installed in all new machines;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO educate our citizens through the Great Lakes Advisory Group and Métis in all watersheds about the efficacy and need for washing machine filters to capture microplastics;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNO seek funding to incorporate the distribution of or the subsidizing of washing machine filters for capturing microplastics as part of the program it offers MNO citizens.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA230820-07)

Ordinary Resolution #OR-05: Transparency in Post-Secondary Funding

It was MOVED (Ryan Lafleur) and SECONDED (Bennett Woods)

WHEREAS in determining award amounts for the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Post-Secondary Education Support Program (PSESP), applicants' course loads are calculated "not by whether [the applicant's] school considers [the applicant] a full-time student" (PSESP, 2023);

AND WHEREAS an applicant's tuition, incidental and ancillary fees owed each term may not be linearly related to their course load as defined above (for example, many institutions charge a flat rate for students taking four or more classes);

AND WHEREAS the MNO supports out-of-province applicants on "a case-by-case basis" (PSESP, 2023);

AND WHEREAS applicants may enroll in fewer classes than their peers while maintaining similar academic time commitments due to, for example, athleticism, disability, or alternative learning needs;

AND WHEREAS many institutions may recognize said applicants as full-time students within the institution's system due to their academic commitments;

AND WHEREAS such commitments may impair an applicant's ability to secure employment income as they study;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that every September starting in the year 2024, the Education and Training Branch will be required to publish a financial report anonymously detailing by region, which at minimum will include the number of eligible applications, how many eligible applicants were selected for funding, a breakdown as to the level and type of degrees, and how much money was available for the funding in the given year.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MNO Assembly directs the MNO secretariat to develop a business case to advocate and advance education investments from the Governments of Canada and Ontario to address the needs of MNO citizens, including seeking required changes to funding parameters.

RESOLVED (AGA230820-08)

(188 in favour; 10 opposed; 1 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution #OR-07: Funding to Attend Back to Batoche

It was MOVED (Natalie Parent) and SECONDED (Jeannine Vaillancourt)

WHEREAS the Statement of Prime Purpose says the MNO is to promote and foster community development;

WHEREAS the Statement of Prime Purpose says the MNO is to promote the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage;

WHEREAS the Battle of Batoche was the most significant event in Métis history;

WHEREAS the MNO receives an annual invitation for the MNO and its citizens to attend the event celebration;

WHEREAS it would be of great educational opportunity for MNO citizens and council members throughout the province to attend;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO explore providing funding to provide to every council in the province, funding for one council member and one citizen at large, to attend the Battle of Batoche yearly celebrations, with a fair and transparent process that allows all citizens an equal opportunity to apply.

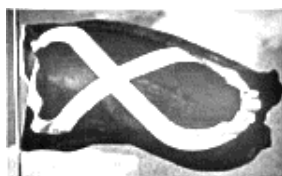
DEFEATED

(78 in favour; 108 opposed; 10 abstentions)

Ordinary Resolution #OR-08: MNO Flag

It was MOVED (Evan Accettola) and SECONDED (Claire Accettola)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation has a flag which can be seen below;



Métis Flag

AND WHEREAS, our sister governments of Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Métis Nation of Alberta, and the Métis Nation of British Columbia all have flags to represent their governments which can be seen below;



MNBC Flag

MN-S Flag

MNA Flag

AND WHEREAS, a flag allows us to showcase the unique identity and values of the Métis Nation of Ontario;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2023 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly direct the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario to establish a committee to create a Métis Nation of Ontario flag;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the flag created by the committee be presented for consideration as the official flag of the Métis Nation of Ontario at a future annual general assembly.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA230820-09)