

THE FACTS

The Inconvenient Realities the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. / Chiefs of Ontario Resolution Chooses to Ignore

On May 14-15, 2024, at an invite only “Indigenous Identity Fraud Summit,” leadership of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) passed a “[resolution](#).” This resolution was meant to attack the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), the proven history of Métis communities within Ontario, and the interests of rights-bearing Métis communities across the Métis Nation homeland from Ontario-westward. Disguised as an attempt to “kill” [Bill C-53](#), the “resolution” declared the MMF and COO’s commitment to spreading misinformation about the Métis communities and citizens MNO represents.

This misinformation has gone unchecked for too long and is causing deep divisions.

The MNO has created a line-by-line fact check on the “resolution” to allow for a fact-based conversation on these issues, rather than the continued spread of misinformation:

THE FACTS:

Resolution Whereas Clause:

1

The Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) is a corporation that was established in 1993, has since steadily expanded its membership outside the historical and cultural boundaries of the Red River Métis, and since the 2003 Supreme Court of Canada Powley decision has misapplied the Powley test to expand its membership;

Métis communities in Ontario began to emerge in the late 1700s around the Upper Great Lakes and along strategic fur trade and water systems in northern Ontario. Our existence is well-documented in the historic record by others acknowledging us and our distinctiveness, our petitions, collective action and resistance, as well as our involvement in some of the historic treaty-making processes that led to the Robinson Superior Treaties (1850), Treaty #3 (1873) and Treaty #9 (1905) (i.e., either by being deliberately excluded as distinct Indigenous communities or adhering as a distinct community in the case of Treaty #3 in 1875). The Crown, First Nations and others knew ‘Halfbreeds’ – as distinct communities – were living together in some parts of Ontario before Canada became Canada. It was also clear that historic Métis communities were not present in some areas, like in southern Ontario and the far north..

Suggesting that the only Métis come from Red River is a distortion of history. In 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada held: “particularly given the vast territory of what is now Canada, we should not be surprised to find that different groups of Métis exhibit their own distinctive traits and traditions.

As part of the ongoing efforts of the current MMF leadership to rebrand themselves as a national government, they continue to work to undermine and stop all other Métis governments. This is why the current MMF works against all other Métis governments, not just the MNO. It is ironic that the **MMF Inc.** tries to malign the MNO for its creation in 1993, but the MMF – as a corporation – was only created in 1967, decades after other Métis governments in the prairies were created in 1928 and the 1930s. Like other Métis governments, the MNO was required by colonial law to establish a corporation in order to access federal funding.

- [Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement](#)
- [Métis Nation Recognition of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Community](#)
- [Identification of Historic Métis Communities in Ontario](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Historic Métis Communities in Ontario](#)
- [The MNO Registry Review](#)
- [R. v. Powley, \[2003\] 2 S.C.R. 207, 2003 SCC 43](#)
- [Evidence and Key Findings in the Powley Case](#)
- [Establishing a Métis Right](#)

2

Resolution Whereas Clause:

The MNO began making unfounded and egregious claims in First Nations' Ancestral and Treaty territories which led to the Chiefs of Ontario terminating the 2004 Political Protocol with the MNO in 2010 due to them asserting alleged rights which are in conflict with established First Nation Aboriginal and Treaty rights;

THE FACTS:

As a Métis Government, MNO built off historic alliances and recognition to advance Métis rights in Ontario, advocating alongside First Nations leadership and organizations on joint priorities, including upholding the country's first Métis harvesting agreement that was signed by the MNO and Ontario in 2004.

The [2004 COO-MNO Protocol](#) was signed after Métis rights in Ontario were affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in 2003, and after the MNO secured a Harvesting Agreement with the Province of Ontario. The Protocol was signed in recognition of Métis rights, claims, and history in Ontario as a means to work together to navigate them. The MNO has not expanded the scope of where MNO asserts Métis communities exist in Ontario since 2004. Rather, COO terminated the Protocol unilaterally for unknown political purposes, only stating it "has not been effective in meeting its stated purpose."

These are the facts, and they cannot be dismissed or disregarded. It is time for dialogue.

- [Nation-to-Nation Ceremony Between the MNO and Anishinabek Nation](#)
- [MNO and COO jointly advocate for Métis rights in Ontario at Queens Park in 2004](#)
- [Métis Voyageur, Winter 2007](#)
- [Responding to First Nation Attacks on Ontario Métis and Métis Denialism](#)
- [Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting](#)
- [2004 Chiefs of Ontario - Métis Nation of Ontario Protocol](#)

3

Resolution Whereas Clause:

The Chiefs of Ontario and the Manitoba Métis Federation ("MMF"), the National Government of the Red River Métis, maintain that the communities represented by the MNO did not exist historically and therefore cannot be eligible to be recognized as having section 35 rights, and that there is ample expert academic research to support this position;

THE FACTS:

The Métis Communities represented by the MNO existed, period. This has been proven through the courts, independent historic reports, and through contemporary recognition by the larger Métis Nation, including the current leaders of the MMF. Any suggestion otherwise is simply revisionism.

Métis were documented throughout the negotiations and implementation of the Robinson Treaties, Treaty #3, and Treaty #9, but were largely excluded as a distinct group (despite Métis demands). First Nation Chiefs are documented as having advocated on behalf of Métis. And some "Indians" signed petitions with "Halfbreeds".

This history is well-known for those who are not intentionally distorting history. It is included in the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Powley case, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report. It is absurd to say we did "not exist historically".

- [Métis Nation Recognition of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Community](#)
- [Sault Ste. Marie's Deep Connections Throughout the Métis Homeland](#)
- [First Nations recognition](#)
- [Hunt for Justice: The Powley Story \(Documentary\)](#)
- [Telling Truths about the Métis in the Robinson Huron Treaty Territory](#)
- [Understanding the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty #3](#)
- [Historic Reports](#)
- [Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, Volume 4 Perspectives and Realities, Ch. 5 Métis Perspectives](#)

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Resolution Whereas Clause:

The MNO did not honour the National Definition of "Métis" established by the Métis National Council ("MNC) in 2002;

THE FACTS:

The National Definition of Métis was developed in anticipation of the Métis National Council (MNC) and MNO's joint intervention in *R v. Powley* before the Supreme Court of Canada where the entire Métis Nation fully supported the Powleys and the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Community as part of the larger Métis Nation.

The panel that oversaw the National Definition's creation was chaired by then MNO President Tony Belcourt, and included the Powley's legal counsel Jean Teillet and MMF President David Chartrand.

The MNO continues to apply the National Definition as adopted in 2002. Read the facts set out below:

- [Implementation of the National Definition of Métis within Ontario and the MNO Registry Policy](#)
- [MNC Intervention Factum in R v. Powley](#)
- [MNO Registry Policy](#)

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Resolution Whereas Clause:

The MMF left the MNC in 2021 because they did not want to continue to be involved with the MNO and its membership issues, stating that the MNC “abandoned the MMF and the true Métis Nation”;

THE FACTS:

The MMF chose to leave the MNC because they wanted to be the only recognized Métis government, which all other Métis governments reject. There is a reason no other President of the Métis Nation governments have aligned with MMF's rebrand narrative. They know full well this is about power and dominance over the Métis Nation, not about protecting anything.

The MMF's campaign against the MNO was (and is) a convenient excuse to hide the MMF's true intentions. Read more here:

- [An Open Letter to Métis Nation Leaders & Citizens: Telling Truths about the MNC and the MNO](#)
- [Chartrand, Chartier, MMF named in multi-million dollar lawsuit by Métis National Council for 'scorched earth policy scheme'](#)
- [Statement of Claim: Métis National Council Inc. v Chartier et al.](#)

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Resolution Whereas Clause:

The MMF maintains that the MNO is engaging in identity theft due to the MNO co-opting the histories and cultural symbols of the Red River Métis;

THE FACTS:

The MMF is ignoring the diversity within the larger Métis Nation. The MMF says it only speaks for the “Red River Métis” but then it continues to claim the shared history, symbols, culture and territory of the broader Metis Nation beyond the Red River Valley. Not all Métis in well-established communities like Lac Ste. Anne, Fort Chipewayan, Ile a la Crosse come from the Red River.

Again, let’s be serious: Is the MMF co-opting the MNO because Métis harvesting rights in Manitoba, stemming from R v. Goodon, rely on the Powley test? Of course not. It is relying on established law. Law established thanks to the Powleys of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Community—located in northcentral Ontario.

- [Understanding the Great Lakes Métis as a Regional Métis Community and as part of the Métis Nation](#)
- [Sault Ste. Marie’s Deep Connections Throughout the Métis Homeland](#)
- [David Chartrand on CPAC after Powley decision](#)
- [Clem Chartier on the formation of MNO and Powley](#)
- [Nicolas Chatelaine’s Métis Scrip application](#)
- [Jigging across Métis communities](#)

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Resolution Whereas Clause:

Bill C-53, Recognition of Certain Métis Governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan and Métis Self-Government Act, self-government legislation that includes the MNO, is the ultimate reward of identity theft at a collective level;

THE FACTS:

Bill C-53 does no such thing. C-53 affirms the inherent jurisdiction of well-recognized Métis governments in Alberta, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, all of which have undergone complete citizenship registry reviews or re-registrations (unlike the MMF).

- [Understanding Bill C-53](#)
- [Bill C-53 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(“UNDRIP”\)](#)
- [Bill C-53 is Reconciliation in Action](#)

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Resolution Whereas Clause:

During the Standing Committee of Indigenous and Northern Affairs’ study of Bill C-53, CIRNAC officials admitted they did not verify MNO’s claims before introducing Bill C-53 and recognizing them as a legitimate Indigenous Nation;

THE FACTS:

In the years after the Powley decision, the Government of Canada commissioned research on Métis communities across Canada. Ontario Métis communities were identified in this research. Other joint research has been undertaken by the MNO and the Government of Ontario concerning the seven Métis communities represented by the MNO. This included the exchange and review of historical reports prepared by independent professional historians and ethno-historians, as well as research regarding the historic Métis communities in Ontario.

- [A Program of Research Related to Historical Métis Communities](#)
- [Ontario and the MNO announce identification of historic Métis communities](#)



Resolution Whereas Clause:

Ontario and Canada's continued lack of due diligence and mistaken recognition of the MNO fails to consider that their actions interfere with the honour of the Crown with respect to Treaty and Aboriginal rights, erode the spirit and intent of the Treaties, and ultimately water down the rights of legitimate Nations; and

THE FACTS:

The Métis communities represented by the MNO are not new and they have been widely recognized by other Métis Nation communities and First Nations for many years.

Advancing the right to self-government, which only deals with Métis internal governance recognizing Métis authority with respect to Métis citizenship, elections, government operations, and Métis child and family services, does not adversely impact the Aboriginal or Treaty rights of others.

Métis and First Nation rights co-exist in Ontario as they do in Manitoba and elsewhere. COO's misguided attacks on Métis people and communities in Ontario and the MNO have created an unnecessary collision course. We need to engage in respectful dialogue, not hate and denial.

- [The Facts: MNO Citizenship](#)
- [Bill C-53 and the Duty to Consult with other Indigenous Peoples](#)

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Resolution Whereas Clause:

First Nations and Red River Métis Leadership support the legitimate claims of Indigenous peoples but note that recognition of unfounded claims undermines legitimate Indigenous Nations.

THE FACTS:

The MNO also condemns Indigenous Identity Fraud in all its forms, and supports all efforts to strengthen legitimate Indigenous citizenship and self-determination. MNO supports the legitimate claims of Indigenous peoples, but the MMF—by itself—is not an independent Indigenous Nation.

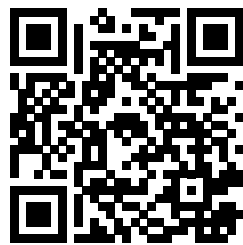
The MMF's own bylaws/constitution are clear, the Manitoba Métis are a part of the larger Métis Nation. While MMF leadership is undertaking a harmful and exclusionary rebranding exercise of the Métis Nation as the "Red River Métis," MMF does not represent the entire Métis Nation.

- [The MNO Special General Assembly booklet](#)
- [Registry and Self-Government Readiness Project: The "RSRP" or "Registry Review"](#)
- [Métis Nation of Ontario Registry and Self-Government Readiness Review Final Report](#)



To learn the facts about rights-bearing Métis communities in Ontario, please visit [Ontario Métis Facts](http://www.ontariometisfacts.ca), a website designed to share the stories, histories, and facts about rights-bearing Métis communities in Ontario. All the images, videos, and original source materials, none of the spin.

www.ontariometisfacts.ca



Métis Nation
of Ontario 