



**Métis Nation of Ontario**  
Office of the President

June 11, 2024

**RE: Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Mandate Letter**

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Congratulations on your election on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”). I look forward to working with you, and all of PCMNO, in advancing the rights, interests, and priorities of the Métis citizens and Métis communities represented by the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”). Together, we will work to improve the lives of MNO citizens and Métis communities and families in Ontario and strengthen recognition and respect of Métis rights for generations to come.

As a member of PCMNO, it is our collective duty to uphold, implement, and advance the purpose, goals, and objectives of the [MNO Statement of Prime Purpose](#). It is also each of our obligations to fulfill our responsibilities as directors and officers of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Inc., which the MNO has incorporated to be our legal and administrative arm until such time as our self-government is recognized in federal law.

In order to assist you in undertaking this important role as a member of PCMNO, this letter sets out some of the history and background about the MNO, our collective roles and responsibilities as PCMNO, and some priorities for our four-year mandate, as well as your personal roles and responsibilities as a member of PCMNO. I encourage you to review this letter, along with the documents that are hyperlinked in this letter, in advance of our upcoming PCMNO meetings and as a part of your orientation.

**1) History of the MNO and Métis Self-Government in Ontario**

Beginning in the late 1700s, distinct Métis communities emerged in various regions surrounding the Upper Great Lakes and along the waterways and fur trade routes of what is now known as Ontario. These Métis Communities, along with other Métis Communities that emerged in the historic North-West, developed their own shared customs, traditions, and collective identities that are rooted in their special Aboriginal relationship to the land, and a distinctive culture and way of life.

In the 19th Century, Métis Communities in Ontario asserted their collective rights, interests, and claims through political action and advocacy, including uprisings, petitions, and the negotiation of a collective adhesion to Treaty 3. More information about the history of these Ontario Métis Communities is available [here](#). You should become well-versed in the history of the Metis Community or Communities you represent. This knowledge is fundamental to your role as a member of PCMNO.

In the 20th Century, and prior to the establishment of the MNO in 1993, Métis Communities in Ontario created their own local or regional bodies and participated in various pan-Aboriginal organizations to advance their rights, interests, and claims. These organizations included the Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association, among others.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Métis Communities in Ontario participated in processes that ultimately led to the inclusion of [section 35 in the Constitution Act, 1982](#) (“Section 35”), which expressly includes the Métis as one of the three “aboriginal peoples of Canada.” Section 35 states:



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35. (1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.

(2) In this Act, “aboriginal peoples of Canada” includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

(3) For greater certainty, in subsection (1) “treaty rights” includes rights that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the aboriginal and treaty rights referred to in subsection (1) are guaranteed equally to male and female persons.

In the early 1990s, the Métis Communities in Ontario participated in the development of the [Métis Nation Accord](#), led by the Métis National Council, as a part of the Charlottetown Accord process, with the governments of Canada, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories. As a result of the Charlottetown Accord being defeated in a national referendum, the Métis Nation Accord was ultimately not signed or implemented.

In 1993, a distinct group of Ontario Métis established the MNO as a Métis-specific government to advance Métis self-determination and self-government. In 1994, the MNO incorporated the MNO Secretariat to act as its corporate and administrative arm until it reached its treaty with Canada.

Extensive consultations on the MNO’s purpose were undertaken, and the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose* was ultimately adopted to guide the MNO’s development. In this seminal document, some of the MNO’s identified objectives are:

- research, publish, and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and to establish and maintain a registry of the Métis Citizens of Ontario;
- establish democratic institutions based on the inherent right of self-government;
- re-establish land and resource bases;
- 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.

In 1993, the MNO supported Steve and Roddy Powley as Métis harvesters and Citizens who were charged with hunting without licenses outside of Sault Ste. Marie. At that time, Ontario did “not recognize any Métis right to hunt for food, or any “special access rights to natural resources” for the Métis whatsoever”.<sup>1</sup>

The MNO also became a governing member of the Métis National Council in 1994.

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<sup>1</sup> *R v Powley*, 2003 SCC 43 at para 47.



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In 1995, Canada released its [Approach to Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiation of Aboriginal Self-Government](#) that provided for negotiations with Métis based on limited mandates and self-government arrangements, including forms of public government, devolution of programs and services, and the development of institutions providing services.

Based on this limited approach to Métis self-government, the MNO and Canada engaged in bilateral processes that included the provision of capacity support for the MNO and its Governance Structures and Institutions. Ontario refused to engage in any tripartite discussions with the Parties until after the release of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *R v Powley*.

In 1996, the final report of the [Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples](#) was released and included a series of recommendations with respect to the Métis, including that “[p]olitical negotiation on a nation-to-nation or analogous basis be the primary method of resolving Métis issues.” The Commission also wrote:

Ancestors of today's Métis Nation people 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, at Red River and White Horse Plains in present-day Manitoba, at Pembina in present-day North Dakota, at Batoche in present-day Saskatchewan, and at St. Albert in present-day Alberta....

Although there are differences of opinion about precisely how far the Métis Nation extends beyond its prairie core, there is wide agreement that it includes some portions of Ontario, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia. [...] It is not for the Commission to say which Métis communities in the disputed areas form part of the Métis Nation and which do not. These are matters to be determined by the Métis Nation and the communities themselves. What we can say is that the Métis Nation is the most significant Métis collectivity in Canada.

In 2002, prior to arguing *R v Powley* before the Supreme Court of Canada, the MNO, as a part of the Métis National Council, participated in and supported the adoption of a [National Definition for Citizenship within the Métis Nation](#) through a Métis National Council General Assembly.

In 2003, in *R v Powley*, the Supreme Court of Canada directed governments and the Métis to negotiate in relation to the rights of the Métis and to work together to develop a “systematic method of identifying Métis rights-holders” based on “[objectively verifiable] proof of self-identification, ancestral connection, and community acceptance” to ensure that “the difficulty of identifying members of the Métis community must not be exaggerated as a basis for defeating their rights under the Constitution of Canada.” It is important for you to read this judgement in its entirety.

Since 2003, the MNO and other Métis Nation Governments have worked with Canada to develop a federal response to *R v Powley*, which included the development of national standards. Canada provides ongoing capacity funding to the MNO for the development of an objectively verifiable system for the identification of Métis Rights-Holders consistent with the guidelines set out by the Supreme Court of Canada in *R v Powley*.

In 2004, the MNO Annual Assembly amended the MNO bylaws and adopted a new definition and process for the registration of its Citizens that was consistent with the national definition adopted through the



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Métis National Council General Assembly and the criteria set out by the Supreme Court of Canada in *R v Powley*.

Also in 2004, the MNO and Ontario reached an [interim harvesting agreement](#) that recognized a limited number of MNO Harvesters Card holders until an independent evaluation of the MNO's Harvesters Card system could be performed.

In 2009, the MNO adopted a [Registry Policy](#), on an interim basis, to provide further clarity on the requirements for citizenship within the MNO. In 2014, this Registry Policy was formally adopted by the MNO Annual General Assembly and forms part of its Constituting Documents.

In 2015, the Ontario legislature passed adopted the [Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act](#). The preamble of this legislation states:

Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat is a corporation without share capital incorporated under the *Corporations Act*. It is the corporate and administrative arm of the Métis Nation of Ontario, which was created to represent and advocate on behalf of its registered citizens, and the Métis communities comprised of those citizens, with respect to their collective rights, interests and aspirations, as well as to provide social, economic and cultural supports to Métis individuals, families and communities through a province-wide service delivery system.

The Métis Nation of Ontario maintains a centralized registry of its citizens. The members of Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat are citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario, with defined rights and responsibilities, as set out in the Secretariat's constituting documents and by-laws.

The citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario identify as descendants of the Métis people that emerged in west central North America with their own language (Michif), culture, traditions and way of life. These Métis people collectively refer to themselves as the Métis Nation, which includes Métis communities within Ontario.

Through Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat, the MNO has established various democratically elected governance structures at the local, regional and provincial levels to represent its citizens. The Government of Ontario recognizes that the Secretariat's status as a governance structure that represents its citizens at the local, regional and provincial levels creates operational realities that are distinct from other Ontario not-for-profit corporations.

In 2017, after over a decade of collaborative work and engagement, and based on the "framework for identifying Métis communities in other areas of the province and other parts of Canada" set out in *R v Powley*, the MNO and Ontario publicly announced the "[identification of historic Métis communities located throughout Ontario](#)." These include:

- the Rainy River/Lake of the Woods Historic Métis Community;
- the Northern Lake Superior Historic Métis Community;
- the Sault Ste. Marie Historic Métis Community;



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- the Abitibi Inland Historic Métis Community;
- the Killarney Historic Métis Community;
- the Georgian Bay Historic Métis Community; and
- the Mattawa/Ottawa River Historic Métis Community.

In December 2017, the MNO, Canada, and Ontario signed a [Framework Agreement on Reconciliation](#) that established a formal negotiations process. Section 1.1 of this agreement sets out its purposes as follows:

to jointly develop a government-to-government relationship between the Crown and Métis communities in Ontario represented by the MNO that advances reconciliation between the Parties consistent with the purpose of section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, including by:

- i. recognizing the MNO as a Métis government with decision-making authority over its own roles and functions, processes and relationships with its Citizens and Communities; and
- ii. establishing processes wherein the collectively-held rights and credible claims of Métis communities in Ontario represented by the MNO may be determined, recognized and respected; and
- iii. working towards reaching bilateral or trilateral arrangements that invest in, support and enhance the cultural, social, physical, emotional, spiritual and economic wellbeing of Métis communities in Ontario represented by the MNO and Ontario Métis generally.

At the same time, the [Northwestern Ontario Métis Community Framework Agreement](#) was signed.

In January 2018, an [independent review of the MNO Harvester Card system](#), that was supported by Ontario, confirmed the reliability of the MNO Harvester Card system for identifying Métis rights-holders consistent with the criteria set out in *R v Powley*.

In April 2018, following the independent review of the MNO Harvester Card system noted above, the MNO and Ontario signed the [Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting](#) that recognizes and accommodates Métis harvesting rights in various areas throughout the province.

Based on the above, Canada has engaged in intergovernmental relations, discussions, and negotiations with the MNO and other Métis Nation governments that have led to common understandings being reached and consolidated through a series of agreements that advance reconciliation between the Parties, including the:

- [MNO-Canada Consultation Agreement](#) (July 31, 2015);



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- [Canada-Métis Nation Accord](#) (April 13, 2017);
- [MNO-Canada Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement](#) (June 27, 2019);
- MNO-Canada Interim Fiscal Financing Agreement (February 26, 2021); and
- [MNO-Canada Métis Government Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement](#) (February 23, 2024)

Following from the above-noted Métis Government Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement, [Bill C-53](#) was introduced into Parliament in June 2023.

### **2) The MNO Today**

Since its inception in 1993, the MNO has been guided by the *Statement of Prime Purpose* that affirms that we, as Métis, have the inherent right of self-determination and self-government.

Based on this foundational mandate, as well as our inherent right to self-government and self-determination, MNO has built a strong, province-wide Métis government to represent our 28,500+ MNO citizens.

Today, the MNO has established governance structures at the Provincial (e.g., PCMNO), Regional (e.g., Regional Councilors, Regional Consultation Committees, and Regional Implementation Committees), and local levels (e.g., Chartered Community Councils) to represent MNO citizens wherever they live in Ontario. These governance structures all consist of Métis leaders that are democratically elected by the constituency of MNO citizens they represent.

The MNO also has established a Métis Women's Council, Métis Youth Council, Métis Veterans Council, Two-Spirit Working Group, Captains of the Hunt, and Senators as a part of our Métis government.

In addition, the MNO has established well-run arms length institutions to deliver programs and services to our citizens and advance economic development interests and goals (Métis Voyageur Development Fund and Métis Infinity Investment LLP). The MNO administration currently includes over 400 staff, located in over 30+ offices throughout the Province.

As we move forward with implementing the objectives in the *MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose* and advancing recognition and respect of our rights of self-government and self-determination, all of PCMNO will be engaged in advocating for and advancing the priorities and aspirations of our citizens and the Métis communities in Ontario.

### **3) Our Authority, Responsibility, and Powers as PCMNO**

As members of PCMNO, we are mandated to work together to uphold and honourably implement the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose* and MNO policies, laws, and initiatives implemented pursuant to it,





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consistent with the authorities, responsibilities, and powers set out in our constituting documents, including the MNO bylaws and *Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act*.

The composition, responsibilities, and authority of PCMNO is set out in the MNO Bylaws and includes that “the PCMNO shall make decisions and act in a manner consistent with upholding and advancing the *MNO Statement or Prime Purpose* and shall take its direction from and shall report to the General Assembly.”<sup>2</sup>

The MNO Bylaws also outline that PCMNO has the collective authority to make decisions, manage the property and business of the MNO, and do all such other things as the MNO is authorized by law to do. This includes that PCMNO has the power to authorize expenditures, invest funds, or make financial decisions for the purposes of furthering the objects of the MNO.<sup>3</sup> These functions continue to reside with PCMNO, who has the collective responsibility for fair, transparent, and accountable governance of the MNO as a whole.

PCMNO includes the Executive Committee, who have responsibility for “the day-to-day management and administration of the MNO and shall ensure that resolutions and motions passed by the General Assembly and the PCMNO are carried out.”<sup>4</sup> The Executive Committee includes the President, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and a PCMNO Senator all of whom have specific roles and responsibilities set out in the MNO bylaws. These roles are consistent with the overall responsibility for providing direction and management of the MNO, consistent with the MNO’s legal framework, policies, and procedures.

#### **4) Our Collective Priorities as PCMNO**

As PCMNO, we collectively have much important work to do together over our four-year mandate. In order to focus our efforts, I wanted to set out some of our key priorities in this letter, so that we do not lose sight of the results that we need to achieve for MNO citizens and all Métis communities in Ontario.

In particular, with the support and collaboration of all of PCMNO, I hope that we can make progress in the following priorities areas:

##### **1. Implementing Métis Self-Government**

- a. Ensuring the passage of federal recognition and implementation legislation by Parliament for our modern-day self-government treaty.
- b. Negotiating and reaching a modern-day self-government treaty with Canada, and undertaking a province-wide ratification process of this treaty with our Citizens.
- c. Negotiating a fiscal financing agreement with Canada to ensure ongoing and stable funding to support the future Métis Government (as the successor to the MNO).

##### **2. Developing and Passing our Constitution and Métis Self-Government Laws**

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<sup>2</sup> MNO Bylaws, section 14.

<sup>3</sup> MNO Bylaws, sections 32-35.

<sup>4</sup> MNO Bylaws, section 37.



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- a. Developing a “statement of principles” document for a constitution and engaging in consultations with MNO citizens and Métis communities represented by the MNO, consistent with the MNO-wide self-government consultation plan and commitments in the MNO regional Implementation Agreements
- b. Based on consultations with MNO citizens and Métis communities represented by the MNO, work towards the adoption of a constitution that will be ratified by Métis citizens and communities.

**3. Advancing Métis Rights and Claims**

- a. Working with Canada on the development of a Métis claims process to address outstanding Métis claims held by the regional rights-holding Métis communities in Ontario. Consistent with the MNO’s commitments in our 2023 Self-Government Agreement, it will be for these Métis communities to ultimately decide how to lead and resolve any such outstanding claims, but collectively, we can advocate for a process – outside of the courts – that these Métis communities can access to resolve their community specific land related claims.
- b. Ensuring the honourable implementation of the Crown’s duty to consult and accommodate Métis communities in Ontario by:
  - i. Working collaboratively to ensure the MNO’s Land, Resources and Consultation Branch has up-to-date information, templates and materials to ensure Métis communities in Ontario are meaningfully consulted (i.e., a Branch “refresh” that aligns with the MNO’s Métis rights and self-government related work).
  - ii. Updating the MNO-Canada Consultation Agreement to be consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including seeking updated and enhanced consultation funding.
  - iii. Ensuring any benefits from Métis consultation or accommodation go to legitimate Métis rights-holders and those directly impacted at the Métis community level, including, but not limited to the implementation of resource benefit sharing.

**4. Advancing Education and Awareness of Métis Communities and Métis Rights in Ontario**

- a. Working to update and promote the information available about Métis rights, history, culture and Métis communities in Ontario through developing historic research reports (where necessary).
- b. Supporting and implementing the “[Revitalizing Our Stories, Histories, Alliances and Relationships](#)” resolution from the 2023 MNO AGA.
- c. Creation of a MNO educational institute (i.e., the Powley Institute).





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I also look forward to our upcoming orientation meetings and future discussions in order to identify other priorities that come from our citizens and communities. By working together, we need to ensure we deliver results over the next four years.

### 5) Your Mandate as a Member of PCMNO

#### ***Your Role and Responsibilities***

As a government, the MNO must work to ensure that all MNO citizens and all the Métis communities represented by the MNO have meaningful ways to be consulted and participate in the province-wide initiatives that we are undertaking.

In doing so, we must respect the different roles, responsibilities, and functions of the MNO's various governance structures, including the Annual General Assembly, PCMNO, the Executive Committee, the Chief Strategy Officer ("CSO"), Chief Operating Officer ("COO"), Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") and the MNO Directors and staff that make up our Administration.<sup>5</sup>

In addition, as we move towards self-government, the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") role must be separated from the MNO President's mandate. In the next few months, we hope to recruit and hire a person to fill this important position.

Importantly, your work as a member of PCMNO must always respect the MNO bylaws, the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*, and the distinct authorities and responsibilities of the MNO's various branches and Administration.

It is essential that you become well-versed and knowledgeable in relation to the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*, MNO bylaws, and the other foundational and constituting documents of our Métis government.

#### ***Your Work and Activities***

In addition to your specific role on PCMNO, some of the additional concrete activities that every member of PCMNO can undertake include:

- Educate our citizens, communities, other governments, industry and third parties on the MNO as a Métis government, including our governance structures, departments, branches, etc.
- Work to ensure our governance structures and institutions are respected by other governments (Indigenous and non-Indigenous), industry, and other third parties.
- Engage and consult with MNO citizens and communities on an ongoing basis to inform the work of the MNO.
- Act as ambassadors of the MNO by attending events, workshops, or meetings in your Region, including identifying opportunities available to educate or promote the MNO and Métis rights in Ontario.

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<sup>5</sup> This will also include respecting the distinct role of the Chief Executive Office, or "CEO", at such point in time as the joint MNO President/CEO role is separated into two positions.



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- Identify opportunities to promote the MNO as a Métis government through public relations, communications, media, etc.
- Prepare for and participate in all meetings, workshops, training sessions, etc. of PCMNO as well as Regional meetings and the Annual Assembly.

Of course, the list of activities set out above is not exhaustive, and each PCMNO member has flexibility to develop approaches and workplans to discharge their responsibilities, consistent with the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*, MNO bylaws, other constituting documents as well as available or approved budgets.

### ***Respecting and Engaging the MNO Administration***

All of PCMNO, including myself as President, must respect and empower the MNO's Administration as our Métis government's civil service. It is our obligation to ensure we support and protect a safe, positive, and healthy workplace for all of our government's employees.

The MNO Administration is made up of extremely skilled, well-respected and professional employees who work tirelessly on behalf of our government. As a Métis government, we strive to be a great employer for all of our staff and provide a safe, respectful, and professional workplace. We also seek to encourage our own citizens to want to work for their government.

In order to continue to be a great employer and attract top talent, our Administration cannot be politicized and elected officials cannot disrupt or interfere with the reporting structures and policies and procedures that exist for staff. We must ensure that we are not directly interfering with the role and responsibilities of our Administration for the purpose of stable, effective, and accountable governance.

As such, the direction and oversight that PCMNO provides must respect the distinct role and authority of the CSO, CFO and COO. The CSO, CFO and COO are responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of our Métis government and are who our Administration and staff are ultimately accountable to through the organizational structure of the MNO.

This organizational structure includes our Directors, who are responsible for the various departments of our Métis government. All of our staff report up to their immediate supervisors and the Directors of the department they work in. Senior management and Directors are solely responsible for providing direction and oversight of MNO's Administration and staff.

While we provide political direction to our Administration and discharge our roles as set out in the MNO bylaws and constituting documents, the MNO Administration ensures its reporting and accountability structures as well as policies and procedures are followed. Our Administration is also ultimately responsible for the approval of all financial expenses to ensure that expenditures align with budgets that have been approved as well as our funding arrangements with other governments and third parties. Individual PCMNO members have no authority to authorize individual expenditures on behalf of the MNO.

As a collective, all members of PCMNO must work to ensure that we respect and utilize the proper lines of communication with staff and our Administration. As such, all PCMNO members must direct their questions, requests, or inquiries to our Administration through the office of the CSO, CFO or COO (as appropriate based on their respective responsibilities). For example, if you would like briefing or



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information about a department's work, those sort of requests must be made through the appropriate C-Suite office.

As President, I am committed to ensuring the distinct role and authorities of the CSO, CFO and COO, senior management, and Directors are respected within the MNO to ensure stable, effective, and accountable governance. We will work to ensure that all PCMNO members uphold a framework of neutrality by respecting the distinction between politics and the day-to-day operations of administration.

Our ability to protect and maintain the integrity of our Administration is why our government has been so successful in the past. This is why we have been able to retain excellent senior management, Directors, and staff, including many of our citizens who are proud to work for their government. The MNO strives to be one of the best employers in Ontario and Canada.

As we move forward as a Métis government, we will provide further training and will be developing policies and procedures that explain how this works as well as highlight best practices to ensure that our Administration is able to continue to do the excellent work they do for our government on a day-to-day basis, without political interference. It is expected that all elected officials adhere to the *Statement of Prime Purpose*, the forthcoming code of conduct and all other workplace policies including the *Prevention of Workplace Harassment and Violence Policy* and the *Standards of Professional Conduct Policy*, throughout the course of their duties.

### ***Respecting the Distinct Rights and Authority of Métis Communities Represented by the MNO***

Over the last 30+ years, the MNO has advanced considerable work for the recognition and respect of Métis section 35 rights held by distinct Métis communities in Ontario. Harvesting rights is one key example. After decades of denial and fruitless negotiations, the MNO turned to the courts and advanced the *Powley* case all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. In 2003, this country's highest court recognized section 35 Métis rights for the first time in Canada and held that: "Members of the Métis community in and around Sault Ste. Marie have an aboriginal right to hunt for food under s. 35(1)" which the court found was part of the Métis "special relationship to the land."

Using the total victory in the *Powley* case, the MNO worked with Canada to develop a federal response to the *Powley* decision, which included the development of national standards and ongoing federal capacity funding to the MNO for the development of an objectively verifiable system for the identification of Métis rights-holders, consistent with *Powley*.

The MNO has also worked collaboratively with the provincial government in response to *Powley*. In 2017, after over a decade of negotiations based on the framework set out in *Powley* for identifying Métis communities in other area of the province, the MNO and Ontario publicly announced the "[identification of historic Métis communities located throughout Ontario](#)".

In exercising our authority, PCMNO must always respect the section 35 rights, claims, and interests that are held by these distinct rights-holding Métis communities. This includes recognizing that matters affecting the rights, claims, or interests of those communities must be decided by the members and democratically elected representatives of those communities.



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For example, our *2023 Self-Government Agreement* with Canada included the following commitment to not encroach on the authority and autonomy of the Métis communities represented by the MNO: “The Métis Government is committed to ensuring that any processes, discussions, or negotiations related to a specific Métis Right, interest, or claim collectively held by any one or more of the Métis Communities Represented by the MNO will include the Governance Structures Representing those Métis Communities.”

As President, I am committed to ensuring the distinct role of the rights-holding Métis communities represented by the MNO are respected within our Métis government.

### ***Responsibility as an Ambassador for the MNO***

As a member of PCMNO, you are a role model for our youth, citizens, and Métis communities in Ontario. We rely on you to be respectful and professional as your actions reflect on the MNO as a whole.

In fulfilling your roles within and external to the MNO, you must be professional and remain aware that you are a public official that represents the MNO, as a Métis government, and our citizens and Métis communities in Ontario. Our citizens are counting on their leadership to represent them in a way that honours our ancestors and the hard work our staff and Administration do every day.

While negative comments on social media or from elsewhere are realities that all elected leaders face in today’s society, you must ensure you respond professionally to constructive criticism and engage with others in a respectful way. With that said, you should not engage with individuals who are being abusive or threatening. If those type of situations emerge, they should be reported to ensure your safety and that of other citizens is maintained.

As we work together, we will develop appropriate policies, procedures, and further guidance on how to best engage and deal with difficult situations if and when they arise. Always remember that our citizens strongly believe in and support the MNO. We want our citizens to always know that we strongly support them while we fulfill our duties, regardless of different views that may emerge on specific issues.

### **Conclusion**

I am confident that I can count on you to fulfill the mandate and responsibilities entrusted to you and outlined in this letter as a member of PCMNO.

I hope that you have found this letter helpful, as you begin your work as an important and valued member of PCMNO and ambassador on behalf of the Métis citizens and communities in Ontario who we collectively represent. By working together, we will continue to make great strides advancing the objectives in the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*, including our Métis rights of self-government and self-determination, and improving the lives for Métis children, families, and communities in Ontario.

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Margaret Froh,  
President  
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