



**MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO 31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RECORD OF DECISIONS**

**FOR THE MEETING HELD  
August 16-18, 2024**

The following is a list of resolutions passed by the 31<sup>st</sup> Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly:

**Adoption of the 2024 Annual General Assembly Agenda**

**It was MOVED (Rene Gravelle) and SECONDED (Paul Broadbent)**

That the Agenda for the 31<sup>st</sup> Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly, scheduled August 16-18, 2024, be adopted as presented.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA240816-01)**

**Adoption of the 2023 AGA Minutes**

**It was MOVED (Andy Dufrane) and SECONDED (Rene Gravelle)**

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 18-20, 2023, be adopted as presented.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA240816-02)**

**Approval of the 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements**

**It was MOVED (Rene Gravelle) and SECONDED (Andy Dufrane)**

That the 31<sup>st</sup> Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly adopt the Métis Nation of Ontario Audited Financial Statements, for the year ended March 31, 2024, as presented.

**RESOLVED (AGA240817-01)**

(180 in favour; 43 opposed; 10 abstentions)

**Appointment of the Auditor**

**It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young) and SECONDED (Rene Gravelle)**

That the 31<sup>st</sup> Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly appoint Baker Tilly, Ottawa LLP, as the Métis Nation of Ontario Auditor for the year ending March 31, 2025.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA240817-02)**

## Ordinary Resolution #OR-01: Métis Rules of Order

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

**WHEREAS** the advancement and implementation of Métis rights, including the inherent right of self-government, has been the upmost priority for the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) since its creation in 1993, as reflected in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose;

**AND WHEREAS**, based on the foundational mandate set out in the Statement of Prime Purpose, the MNO has worked to establish a strong, province-wide Métis government with governance structures at the provincial, regional, and local levels to represent MNO Citizens wherever they live in Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS**, as the MNO has continued to grow and strengthen its governance structures, it has heard from MNO Citizens and MNO elected leadership and officials about the need for updates to the Métis Rules of Order, to ensure that these rules continue to foster and support effective and inclusive democratic governance across the MNO as a whole;

**AND WHEREAS**, in March 2019, the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) directed that “a review and revision of the Métis Rules of Order” be undertaken (PC190331-01), following which the MNO began an engagement process in order to gather feedback on how the Métis Rules of Order could be strengthened to better respond to the MNO’s evolving self-government needs and priorities;

**AND WHEREAS**, following this direction, the MNO has worked to develop an updated draft of the Métis Rules of Order that incorporates the feedback received from the engagement sessions and sets out updated procedures that aim to provide MNO Citizens and elected leadership with practical tools to create safe, orderly, efficient, inclusive, collaborative, and democratic meeting spaces;

**AND WHEREAS**, PCMNO passed a resolution on July 10, 2024 approving in principle the updated Métis Rules of Order and directed that the MNO administration to:

- 1) Work with the PCMNO Chair and Vice-Chair to prepare any materials required in order to present the updated Métis Rules of Order to the 2024 MNO Annual General Assembly (“AGA”), with the goal of having it be adopted by the AGA; and
- 2) Develop a communications plan for promoting awareness and education about the Métis Rules of Order, including training options available to all of MNO’s governance structures, including at the provincial, regional, and local (e.g., MNO Chartered Community Councils) levels, which can be implemented following the AGA (and provided that the Code is approved by the AGA).

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, MNO Annual General Assembly 2024 approves the Rules of Order dated July 10, 2024, consistent with the PCMNO direction.

**RESOLVED (AGA240817-03)**

(172 in favour; 61 opposed; 32 abstentions)

## Ordinary Resolution #OR-02: MNO Code of Conduct

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

**WHEREAS** the advancement and implementation of Métis rights, including the inherent right of self-government, has been the upmost priority for the Métis Nation of Ontario (“**MNO**”) since its creation in 1993, as reflected in the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*;

**AND WHEREAS**, based on the foundational mandate set out in the *Statement of Prime Purpose*, the MNO has worked to establish a strong, province-wide Métis government with governance structures at the provincial, regional, and local levels to represent MNO Citizens wherever they live in Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS**, guiding all of the MNO’s work over the course of the last 30+ years is the *Statement of Prime Purpose*, which outlines key Métis principles and values, including that:

“The strength of our society is based on democracy, freedom, fairness, equality, generosity, justice and the customary and written law of our people. Above all, we cherish harmony and peace . . .

We have respect for each other . . . We are a people who honour and respect the family, our elders, who hold the key to the past, and our children, who are our future. Guided by our spiritual values we aspire to attain our highest potential.”

**AND WHEREAS**, as the MNO has continued to grow and strengthen its governance structures, it has heard from MNO Citizens and MNO elected leadership and officials about the need for a Code of Conduct to foster and facilitate respectful and constructive interactions and further support effective and democratic governance across the MNO as a whole;

**AND WHEREAS**, further to this direction, the MNO worked to develop a draft Code of Conduct which was presented to the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“**PCMNO**”) on February 5, 2022, and PCMNO approved of the draft in-principle and directed that the MNO initiate a broader engagement process inviting feedback from MNO Citizens, MNO Chartered Community Councils, and MNO advisory councils on the draft;

**AND WHEREAS**, following this engagement process, the MNO has worked to prepare a final draft of the *Code of Conduct: A Guide for Living Together in Good Relations* (the “**Code**”) that incorporates the feedback received from the engagement process and sets out standards for MNO Citizens’ conduct that flow from MNO core values and principles outlined in the *Statement of Prime Purpose* as well as mechanisms to hold MNO Citizens accountable for their conduct and breaches of the Code;

**AND WHEREAS**, PCMNO passed a resolution on July 10, 2024 approving the Code of Conduct in principle directed the MNO administration to:

- 1) Work with the PCMNO Chair and Vice-Chair to prepare any materials required in order to present the Code to the 2024 MNO Annual General Assembly (“**AGA**”), with the goal of having it be adopted by the AGA;
- 2) Work, on a priority basis, with the MNO Community Relations Branch to put in place interim mechanisms and supports for the implementation of the Code, until such time as the MNO Office of Ethics and Integrity (as outlined in the Code) is established;

- 3) Develop a plan for the establishment of the MNO Office of Ethics and Integrity, including working with PCMNO and the MNO Secretary Treasurer, as the Provincial Secretary for Finance, to develop a budget for the Office, draft job description and compensation framework for the Commissioner, and any other operational details required to operationalize the Office (as outlined in the Code); and
- 4) Develop a communications plan for promoting awareness and education about the Code with MNO Citizens and across all of MNO's governance structures, including at the regional and local (e.g., MNO Chartered Community Councils) levels, which can be implemented following the AGA (and provided that the Code is approved by the AGA).

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the MNO Annual General Assembly 2024 approves the Code of Conduct dated July 10, 2024, consistent with the PCMNO direction.

**RESOLVED (AGA240817-04)**

(215 in favour; 53 opposed; 5 abstentions)

**Special Business Resolution #24-AGA-02: Special Resolution to Amend MNO Electoral Code: Part B, Community Council Electoral Code s.B7.3**

**It was MOVED (Shannon Beagan) and SECONDED (Darlene Lent)**

Whereas the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Statement of Prime Purpose states that We, the Metis Nation, have the inherent right of self-determination and self-government;

And Whereas the rules and procedures governing Community Council Elections are set out in both the Metis Nation of Ontario Electoral Code: Part A, and the Metis Nation of Ontario Electoral Code: Part B Community Council Electoral Code;

And Whereas Article B7.3 of the MNO Electoral Code: Part B Community Council Electoral Code currently reads:

A citizen of the MNO is eligible to be a candidate if on the day his or her nomination papers are filed, he or she:

- a. is sixteen (16) years of age;
- b. is ordinarily resident in the Community Council's geographic territory;
- c. does not currently have his/her rights and privileges suspended by notice in writing;
- d. is verified according to the process set out by the Registrar as amended from time to time;
- e. has not been convicted of an indictable offence within the five (5) years prior to the election date;
- f. has not been convicted of corrupt practice, accepting a bribe, dishonesty or malfeasance in relation to an election within the five (5) years prior to the election date;
- g. if seeking to be a youth representative on the Community Council is twenty-six (26) years of age or younger on the day of the election;
- h. if seeking to be a women's representative on the Community Council is female;
- i. if seeking to be a Senator on the community council is fifty-five (55) years of age or older on the day of the elections; and

And Whereas there is a need to ensure the efforts made by a Community Council, to remove a member from the Community Council through s.27 and s.28, is effective in upholding the Metis Nation of Ontario Community Code;

And Whereas there is no existing mechanism to prevent Community Council members who have been removed from their Community Council from running in the subsequent Community Council elections;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article B7.3 of the MNO Electoral Code: Part B Community Council Electoral Code be amended with an additional subsection “j” to read:

“j. has not been removed from a Community Council through the processes as set out by the relevant clauses in the Community Council’s Code (s.27 and s.28) for reasons of having been found to be in violation of MNO’s governance documents or Code of Conduct, or resigns while the Community Council is in the process of s.27 and s.28 removal for reasons of having been found to be in violation of MNO’s governance documents or Code of Conduct, within the five (5) years prior to the new election date. For further certainty, a citizen is ineligible to run for the Community Council election for five (5) years following their removal or resignation to avoid removal from Community Council.”

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Article B7.3 of the MNO Electoral Code shall read in full:

A citizen of the MNO is eligible to be a candidate if on the day his or her nomination papers are filed, he or she:

- a. is sixteen (16) years of age;
- b. is ordinarily resident in the Community Council’s geographic territory;
- c. does not currently have his/her rights and privileges suspended by notice in writing;
- d. is verified according to the process set out by the Registrar as amended from time to time;
- e. has not been convicted of an indictable offence within the five (5) years prior to the election date;
- f. has not been convicted of corrupt practice, accepting a bribe, dishonesty or malfeasance in relation to an election within the five (5) years prior to the election date;
- g. if seeking to be a youth representative on the Community Council is twenty-six (26) years of age or younger on the day of the election;
- h. if seeking to be a women’s representative on the Community Council is female;
- i. if seeking to be a Senator on the community council is fifty-five (55) years of age or older on the day of the elections; and
- j. has not been removed from a Community Council through the processes as set out by the relevant clauses in the Community Council’s Code (s.27 and s.28) for reasons of having been found to be in violation of MNO’s governance documents or Code of Conduct, or resigns while the Community Council is in the process of s.27 and s.28 removal for reasons of having been found to be in violation of MNO’s governance documents or Code of Conduct, within the five (5) years prior to the new election date. For further certainty, a citizen is ineligible to run for the Community Council election for five (5) years following their removal or resignation to avoid removal from Community Council.”

**DEFEATED**

(144 in favour; 98 opposed; 17 abstentions)

**Ordinary Resolution #OR-03: To Form a Health Test Reimbursement Working Group**

**It was MOVED (Pasquale Gasparro) and SECONDED (Samantha Brabant)**

WHEREAS the MNO has a range of policies and services designed to assist MNO Citizens in preserving or enhancing their health;

AND WHEREAS early diagnostic medical testing can save lives, reduce health care costs and reduce hardships among the MNO Citizenry;

AND FINALLY WHEREAS health costs for some medical diagnostic tests such as early prostate examinations are no longer fully covered by OHIP and/or other programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly of the MNO hereby directs the MNO to form a working group to evaluate whether it is feasible to establish a policy whereby the MNO assists MNO citizens by reimbursing them for medical diagnostic health tests that are not already covered by OHIP and not eligible for reimbursement from another party. The working group is directed to complete its work and present its findings to the 32nd MNO AGA in 2025.

**RESOLVED (AGA240818-01)**

(230 in favour; 9 opposed; 4 abstentions)

**Ordinary Resolution #OR-04: To Offer and Inform Citizens of a Third Gender Option**

**It was MOVED (Diane Kilby) and SECONDED (Charlotte Hunter Louttit-Kijekijik)**

WHEREAS the MNO recognizes that gender is non-binary and not limited to male and female;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Registry will already record a citizen's gender as Two-Spirit if a citizen makes that request;

AND WHEREAS this is not common knowledge to other citizens who are Two-Spirit;

AND WHEREAS the Interim Two-Spirit Council is severely limited in reaching its broad constituency for this reason;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO and the MNO Registry amend all of its forms to recognize Two-Spirit identity effective immediately;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MNO advertise this move to inclusion on all its social media platforms, its website, and its mail-outs to citizens.

**RESOLVED (AGA240818-02)**

(203 in favour; 37 opposed; 9 abstentions)

**Ordinary Resolution #OR-05: Mobility Accessibility Committee**

**It was MOVED (Theresa Stenlund) and SECONDED (Hayden Stenlund)**

WHEREAS, the MNO, as a Metis government, strives to ensure the accessibility needs of all MNO citizens are met when delivering or conducting MNO programming, engagement and events;

AND WHEREAS, the MNO recognizes the need to engage with individuals who have mobility accessibility needs in order to inform such programming, engagements, and events;

AND WHEREAS, the MNO's administration attempted to organize Mobility Engagement Camps on two separate occasions to collect information needed to inform the development and advocacy of Metis-specific programs and services for citizens, and there was little to no response received;

AND WHEREAS, the MNO also conducted a telephone engagement (Robocall) in August 2024 that resulted in 716 responses who indicated they have a person with mobility accessibility needs in their household and would be willing to take part in a survey identifying specific needs;

AND WHEREAS, at the current 2024 MNO AGA, Healing and Wellness staff are actively engaging with citizens on an in-person basis to request them to complete a survey to collect relevant data to inform the MNO's mobility accessibility needs;

AND WHEREAS, the Rick Hansen Foundation is offering to provide MNO staff with training, including related to the "Accessibility and Disability Inclusion Education" and "Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Fundamentals Training";

AND WHEREAS, it is important for the MNO to proactively work to remove barriers to ensure all MNO citizens have equal opportunity to participate in MNO programming, engagement and events;

AND WHEREAS, the MNO is actively working to develop tools to properly inform how to address barriers for those with mobility accessibility needs;

AND WHEREAS, the PCMNO has the authority to appoint committees and to determine the duties of such committees (MNO By-laws, article 68);

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the PCMNO consider appointing an Accessibility Committee to develop recommendations and potential tools, for the PCMNO's further consideration, related to improving accessibility for future MNO programming, engagements, and events.

**RESOLVED (AGA240818-03)**

(247 in favour; 5 opposed)

#### **Ordinary Resolution #OR-06: Bilingualism**

**It was MOVED (Basile Dorian) and SECONDED (Jacques Picotte)**

Whereas the French Canadians played a significant role in the creation of the Metis Nation;

And whereas a significant amount of MNO citizens have French as their first language;

Therefore we ask the MNO to consider ways of making French and bilingualism more prominent in its communications & services as well as in our path to self government & constitution.

**RESOLVED (AGA240818-04)**

(185 in favour; 31 opposed; 29 abstentions)

#### **Ordinary Resolution #OR-07: War of 1812 MNO Story Project**

**It was MOVED (Kate Stewart-McNeil) and SECONDED (Brian Prairie)**

Whereas in 1812 the war between American and British interests forced the Métis/half-breed community living near the forts at Drummond Island, Michilimackinac, St. Joseph Island, and Sault Ste. Marie to choose sides and fight, or leave;

Be it resolved that the 2024 Assembly of the MNO consider the creation of a War of 1812 MNO Story Project. This project may be supported and advanced through collaboration by the mover and the seconder and will focus on raising up our 1812 stories of community resilience for the benefit of our collective memory.

**RESOLVED (AGA240818-05)**

(224 in favour; 16 opposed; 3 abstentions)

## Ordinary Resolution #OR-09: Youth and Elders Conference

### **It was MOVED (Evan Accettola) and SECONDED (Donna Grenier)**

Whereas:

- Métis Elders hold invaluable knowledge and wisdom gained through lived experiences;
- Métis Youth represent the present and future of the Métis Nation and its vibrant culture;
- Fostering strong connections between Elders and Youth ensures the transmission of cultural heritage and traditions;
- Mutual respect and understanding between generations strengthens the Métis community as a whole;

Be it resolved that: MNO investigates the possibility of holding a Métis Youth and Elders Conference planned in collaboration with the MNOYC, and Senators/Elders (inclusive of Two-Spirit Elders);

Be it further resolved that this conference:

- Encourages the establishment of regular intergenerational gatherings and activities within Métis communities.
- Supports the development of mentorship programs that pair Elders with Youth, facilitating the sharing of knowledge and skills.
- Promotes the integration of Elder perspectives into youth-led initiatives and decision-making processes.
- Commits to creating safe and inclusive spaces where Elders and Youth can connect, learn, and grow.
- Recognizes the importance of intergenerational relationships in fostering a strong and resilient Métis Nation.

**RESOLVED (AGA240818-06)**

(206 in favour; 26 opposed; 6 abstentions)