

AGA2023



30th Annual General Assembly

2023 MINUTES

Minutes of the 30th Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) held August 18-20, 2023, at the Westin Ottawa, 11 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, prepared by Jana Anderson, Recording Secretary.

DAY ONE – August 18, 2023

MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY – OPENING CEREMONIES

The 30th MNO AGA commenced with the Colour Guard led by Métis Fiddler Alicia Blore. The Grand Entry and Procession of dignitaries included the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Métis Veterans, Senators, and members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC), Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) and past MNO Presidents.

ANTHEMS

"O Canada", the "Statement of Prime Purpose" and "We Aspire" were played.

OPENING REMARKS

Hank Rowlinson, Chair, PCMNO

Chair Rowlinson called the AGA to order at 8:47 a.m. and welcomed delegates.

OPENING PRAYER

Parm Burgie, Senator, Ottawa Métis Regional Council

Senator Parm Burgie offered an Opening Prayer and acknowledged the traditional territories of the unceded Anishinabe Algonquin Nation, and the lands of the many nations the meeting was being held on, recognizing that the Ottawa area was home to many First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.

Hank Rowlinson, Chair, PCMNO

Chair Rowlinson thanked Senator Burgie for the Opening Prayer and welcomed delegates. Chair Rowlinson invited delegates during the business portion of the Assembly, to keep comments concise, and that, unless required, a time limit for speakers would not be implemented.

Sharon Cadeau, Vice-Chair, PCMNO

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

Introduction of PCMNO

President Froh welcomed delegates to the 30th MNO AGA and extended greetings on behalf of the PCMNO. A video was played introducing each of the PCMNO members.

WELCOMING REMARKS FROM DIGNITARIES AND GUESTS¹

Eric Gjos, Ottawa Region Métis Council President

Council President Gjos extended greetings on behalf of the host, Ottawa Region Métis Council, and provided an overview of the history of the traditional territory of Ottawa.

Andy Dufrane, PCMNO Region 6 Councilor

PCMNO Regional Councilor Dufrane welcomed delegates and extended greetings on behalf of Region 6 and the Ottawa Region Métis Council.

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell commented on the strength of a society based in democracy, freedom, equality and justice and the MNO's 30-year commitment to those ideals, as reflected in its Statement of Prime Purpose. The Lieutenant Governor acknowledged Presidents, past Presidents, leaders and youth present and expressed appreciation at the invitation to attend the AGA and celebrate MNO's 30th Anniversary and the 20th Anniversary of the *Powley* decision. The Lieutenant Governor shared that lasting memories have been created, from engagement with Métis across Ontario. Métis have made an indelible impact across the province and were integral to Canada. Comments were offered on the importance of reconciliation, and the Lieutenant Governor extended best wishes for a positive AGA.

Cassidy Caron, President, Métis National Council (MNC)

MNC President Caron acknowledged dignitaries, the PCMNO, MNOYC, MNO leaders and citizens and commented on the significance of the AGA's location in Ottawa and celebrations for the 40th Anniversary of the MNC, the 30th Anniversary of the MNO and 20th Anniversary of the *Powley* decision. The MNC President commented on how far the Métis Nation has come, the goals and visions achieved and recognized all MNO Presidents for their contributions.

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

MNA President Poitras extended greetings on behalf of the MNA, acknowledged Veterans, Senators, Elders, Métis leaders, dignitaries, youth, families, and friends attending and expressed appreciation for the invitation to attend the MNO AGA. MNA President Poitras acknowledged the 30th Anniversary of the MNO and, in recognizing the 20th Anniversary of the *Powley* decision, commented on the importance of the decision toward continued Métis rights and recognition. MNA President Poitras offered appreciation at being able to work with all three MNO Presidents over the years, extended thanks to all Métis citizens for their hard work and strides made, and the friendships made over the MNA President's 27-year career.

Former MNO Presidents Tony Belcourt, and Gary Lipinski acknowledged MNA President Poitras' accomplishments over her 27-year career and noted they were honoured to have worked with her.

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

LFMO President Omeniho extended greetings on behalf of the Women of the Métis Nation, expressed appreciation for being invited to attend the 30th MNO AGA and commented on the LFMO's continued efforts to address issues for Métis women across the Nation. Information was shared on the history of the establishment of the LFMO, and the history of "Otipemisiwak".

¹ A video recording of remarks from dignitaries is available at: <https://youtu.be/thTJnjlbd0>.

Tony Belcourt, Former President of the MNO

Former President Tony Belcourt explained the history of the incorporation of the MNO, and amendments to section 35 of the *Constitution Act 1982* recognizing Métis. Former President Tony Belcourt acknowledged the former founders of the MNO, and extended congratulations to all Métis for their journey to nationhood.

Gary Lipinski, Former President of the MNO

Former President Gary Lipinski commented on his 23-year service to MNO, and the significant milestones achieved. The decisions of political leaders, implemented by staff, including in the areas of economic development, the creation of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF), and impact and benefits agreements (IBAs) negotiated and signed were acknowledged. Former President Lipinski commented on the governments' ongoing responsibility to respect and implement the promises/treaties made to Métis people and the need to ensure Métis have the same rights, respect, recognition, and benefits as First Nations in Canada. The historic relationships with courageous former First Nations leaders, which reflect the history of Métis and First Nations working together, were noted.

Marc Serré, Member of Parliament (MP), and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Official Languages

Parliamentary Secretary Serré expressed appreciation for the invitation to attend the MNO's 30th AGA, acknowledged the current and former leadership present and commended Métis citizens for electing remarkable leadership. Delegates were encouraged to continue to celebrate their successes and acknowledge the history and past while looking forward to a positive future. Parliamentary Secretary Serré acknowledged the political support for Bill C-53, and the federal government's commitment to continuing working with the MNO to advance rights and reconciliation and build a new government-to-government relationship.

Goldie Ghamari, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Carleton

MPP Ghamari thanked the MNO for the invitation to attend the MNO's 30th AGA and commented on the historical significance of the *Powley* decision. Steps the government has taken over the past five years to support the MNO were shared and MPP Ghamari acknowledged the commitment to continue to engage with stakeholders to support Métis, First Nations and other education partners to ensure a diverse future.

John Fraser, Interim Leader, Ontario Liberal Party and Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Ottawa South

Interim Leader Fraser extended greetings on behalf of Ottawa Centre, Ottawa Vanier and Mayor Sutcliffe and commented on the need to acknowledge and honour the history of the Métis in Ontario. The accomplishments of the MNO over the past 30 years on behalf of citizens in the areas of housing and health were acknowledged.

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS AND YEAR IN REVIEW²**Margaret Froh, President, Métis Nation of Ontario**

President Froh extended a welcome to Senators, Elders, distinguished guests, past and present elected leaders, volunteers, and citizens, before thanking the host Community Council and acknowledging the traditional territory in which the Assembly was being held. Thanks were offered to the MNO Colour Guard, Veterans and Métis fiddler who led the Grand Entry, and to the MNO staff for organizing the AGA's events and activities. Comments were offered on the marking of the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the MNO,

² A video recording of the full State of the Nation is posted to: https://youtu.be/Gusf94_Dpiw.

and the 20th Anniversary of the *Powley* decision in 2023, the need to continue to recognize the advances made toward self-government and commitment to telling stories and raising awareness of the rich and vibrant Métis culture. It was noted that the challenges ahead would require citizens remaining united, in their focus on sustainable development, need for equitable access to education and health care, building opportunities for strong, healthy proud families and children, and the preservation of the Métis culture, stories, history and way of life.

The President thanked dignitaries, elected, and appointed leaders, and partners for their support and acknowledged MNC President Caron as a change-maker and MNA President Poitras for providing unwavering dedication and exceptional service over the past 27 years.

President Froh spoke about activities and accomplishments achieved including the negotiation and signing of self-government agreements; introduction of Bill C-53 in Parliament; participation in forums and gatherings on justice, housing and child and family services and UN Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; continued efforts to raise awareness of the Métis experience in residential and day schools and advocating for justice to address violence against Métis women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people; the continued push for Canada to co-develop a Canada-Métis claims policy; participation in Back to Batoche; efforts to continue to grow and invest in the Métis government; and completion of the Registry Review.

President Froh explained the processes and results from the independent Registry Review, the February 2023 province-wide plebiscite vote, and Special General Assembly held June 17, 2023, resulting in updated Bylaws and a Registry Policy and the creation of an appeals process. Statistics on the number of citizenship applications processed by Registry over the past year, and partnerships established with the MNA and MN-S towards advancing the rights-agenda were shared. Key advisory groups and institutions (e.g., veterans, youth, veterans, and LGBTQ+ Councils, Infinity Investments) were acknowledged.

President Froh provided an overview of the progress on revitalizing the MNO Cultural Commission (MNOCC) and highlighted community and Advisory Committee activities and initiatives, over the past year. MNO staff were thanked for their continued role to provide supports and services and highlighted several Branch achievements over the past year including: Early Learning and Childcare's (ELCC) support of approximately 2,000 Métis children through various programs and services; Education and Training's establishment of a bursary for Métis medical students at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine; MNO Employment and Training programs supporting over 1,090 clients; and Community Wellbeing's Mental Health and Addiction Program.

President Froh announced that a newly created Powley documentary, would soon be released, and as events and activities were scheduled to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Powley, MNO's 30th Anniversary and the 40th anniversary of MNC, they would be posted on MNO's website.

President Froh concluded by thanking the PCMNO, PMCNO Executive, MNO staff and citizens for their support over the past year and reminded delegates of the importance of booking cancer screening tests.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:38 p.m. During the break pre-recorded video messages were played from the following:

- The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, Member of Parliament and Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada

- The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
- Marit Stiles, Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP)
- Métis Infinity Investments (MII), Interim Chief Executive Officer Lindsay Boyd and Board Directors Fred Lazar and Art Bennett.

OVERVIEW OF AGA PROCEDURES

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

MNO 2023 AGA BUSINESS MEETING COMMENCES

1. Meeting Begins and Voting Technology Explained

The Chair reviewed the electronic voting system using the “clickers” provided, allowing for participation and electronic voting throughout the Assembly. The Assembly was informed that a time limit for speaking on resolutions would not be implemented, provided that speakers’ comments were succinct and brief.

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

2. Establish Quorum

Vice-Chair Cadeau reported that there were 355 registered voting delegates in attendance at 12:00 p.m. on Day 1 of the Assembly, which set quorum at 179.

Vice-Chair Cadeau reviewed the MNO Bylaw requirements for quorum under Article 51(b) and Article 67(k) related to approval of Special Resolutions. It was noted that ordinary resolutions and decisions are made by a simple majority vote of 50% plus one, and special resolutions require quorum being met and approval of at least 2/3 of the votes cast by eligible voters registered at noon on the first day of business.

3. Adoption of the 2023 Annual General Assembly Agenda

In response to questions, Chair Rowlinson confirmed that, unless a resolution specifies a date/timeline, once a Special Business resolution was approved at the Assembly, it would take effect immediately. The resolutions included in the proposed 2023 Special Business Resolutions package were listed in the order they were submitted to the MNO.

Point of Order

In response to a point of order raised, the Chair confirmed that during the Assembly, clickers would be used for voting on each resolution to indicate support, opposition or an abstention, once an objection was indicated by at least one raised hand.

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)

4. 2022 AGA Minutes

4.1 Adoption of the 2022 AGA Minutes

Jo Anne Young, Secretary-Treasurer, reviewed the resolutions in the draft minutes of the MNO 2022 AGA³, included in the meeting package and on the MNO AGA website.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- As reflected in the discussion for Agenda Item 10.3, Special Business Resolution #22-AGA-06, the technical change of the wording of section 51 of the MNO Bylaws, to reflect the wording “ensure technological issues do ‘not’ hinder” have now been corrected
- Special Business Resolution #22-AGA-07 was defeated as it did not meet the approval of at least 2/3 of the votes cast by eligible voters registered at noon on the first day of business when quorum was established
- Quorum was periodically checked during the Assembly; the number of voting delegates recorded in the minutes could be higher than quorum if more voting delegates joined once quorum was established.

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)

4.2 Adoption of the 2023 Special Assembly Minutes

Secretary-Treasurer Young reviewed the resolution in the draft minutes of the 2023 MNO Special Assembly.

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

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation of Ontario Special General Assembly held June 17, 2023, be adopted with corrections to the spelling of the names of the observers on page 11 as follows:

- “Lisa Pigott” to “Lisa Pigeau”
- “Trent Desaulnier” to “Trent Desaulniers Sr.”
- “Donna Graham” to “Donna Grenier”.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA230818-03)

4.3 Business Arising from 2022 AGA Minutes

No items of business arising.

5. Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

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

Vice-Chair Cadeau recognized the following nominees for the 2023 MNO Resolutions Committee:

- Ron LePage
- Teagan Neufeld
- Suzanne Fortin

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

- Jenny Hotte
- Joshua Charpentier
- Marc Mantha
- Rob Baskey.

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

Announcement of the 2023 Resolutions Committee

Vice-Chair Cadeau announced the individuals appointed to the 2023 MNO AGA Resolutions Committee by a secret vote and introduced a resolution to appoint the Committee.

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

That the 2023 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly appoints the following people to the 2023 MNO Resolution Committee:

- Ron LePage
- Teagan Neufeld
- Suzanne Fortin.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA230818-04)

6. Child, Youth and Family Services (*pre-recorded video*)

Delegates viewed the video presentation titled, “Métis Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) Project update”, providing information on the short- and long-term goals of the project; milestones; recommendations from feedback presented at a recent implementation planning workshop; next steps; vision for wellbeing developed; supporting principles; and proposed program.

Chair Rowlinson confirmed that the video report would be posted on MNO’s website.

Comments were offered on the need to ensure that Two-Spirit children were included in the CYFS project.

Sponsors Acknowledged

The AGA sponsors were recognized for their contributions.

7. Advisory Councils

7.1 Two-Spirit Working Group (Two-Spirit Council*)

Diane Kirby read aloud the written report from Benny Michaud, President, Two-Spirit Council*, introduced the newly elected members of the Interim Two-Spirit* Council on August 17, 2023, and invited citizens to put forward names of candidates for regional vacancies. An update on the Two-Spirit Working Group’s activities and accomplishments over the past year was provided.

7.2 Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC)

MNOYC President Jordyn Playne provided a verbal update report, commenting on the success of the 2023 MNO Youth Conference, the 2023 winner of the MNOYC Youth Leadership Award being Hayden Stenlund and MNOYC activities and events over the past year. MNOYC President Playne

thanked the MNOYC members and MNO staff for their dedication and efforts and announced she would not be running for election as MNOYC President in 2024.

7.3 Métis Nation of Ontario Women’s Council (MNOWC)

MNOWC President Suzanne Jackson reviewed the mission and goals of the MNOWC and provided a verbal update on the MNOWC meetings, events and activities over the past year. A draft MNOWC Advisory Council Charter was developed that would be emailed to all Métis women for feedback.

7.4 Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran’s Council (MNOVC)

MNOVC President Brian Prairie provided a verbal update report on MNOVC events and activities over the past year.

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

8. PCMNO Update Reports

Chair Rowlinson referred the Assembly to the PCMNO update reports in the AGA meeting package and posted on the [MNO website](#).

9. Operational Updates and Key Successes

Delegates were invited to review the year-end report included in the meeting package.

10. Celebrating 30 Years of MNO AGAs

Chair Rowlinson confirmed that the “Celebrating 30 Years of MNO AGAs” video would be played at the MNO Banquet Dinner scheduled on the evening of August 19, 2023.

MNO Inaugural Volunteers Acknowledged

Former MNO President Tony Belcourt led delegates in acknowledging Honourary Senator Reta Gordon and Senator Lois McCallum as two of the first volunteers working tirelessly to establish the MNO.

Honourary Senator Reta Gordon and Senator Lois McCallum each shared stories of their history and work as volunteers with the MNO.

Tony Belcourt confirmed a recording of the founding meeting, and the minutes, would be shared with the MNO and PCMNO Councilor Mitchell Case for preservation.

Resolutions Committee Announcement

Resolutions Committee Chair Ron LePage advised that Ordinary (Non-Special Business) Resolutions would be accepted until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 19, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rowlinson thanked delegates for their participation during Day One of the Assembly. The 30th MNO AGA, held August 18, 2022, adjourned on Day One – August 18, 2022, at 4:40 p.m.

DAY TWO – August 19, 2023

MNO 2023 AGA BUSINESS MEETING RECONVENED

Resolutions Committee Announcement

Resolutions Committee Chair Ron LePage reminded the delegation that Ordinary (Non-Special Business) Resolutions would be accepted until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 19, 2023.

11. MNO 2023 AGA Reconvenes

The 2023 MNO AGA held August 18-20, 2023, reconvened on Day Two – August 19, 2023, at 8:33 a.m.

Chair Rowlinson welcomed participants, recalled discussions, presentations, sharing of stories and post-AGA activities that occurred on Day One, and offered a reminder of the Standing Rules of Order.

Diane Kilby, Senator Grand River Métis Council, Elder Two-Spirit Council⁺ joined delegates in acknowledging members of the newly elected Interim Two-Spirit Council⁺.

12. Financial Update

12.1 Secretary-Treasurer's Update/Finance Report

Secretary-Treasurer Young reviewed a presentation titled, "AGA Finance, August 19, 2023" reporting on financial activities over the past year, commenting on:

- Community Council recordkeeping
- The external audit process
- What a qualified opinion is
- Three Finance Liaisons working Community Council leadership to assist with record keeping and other needs
- Efforts to improve and strengthen Community Council financial reporting
- Fourth (4th) Quarter Revenues, including:
 - o Program spending by funder
 - o 2022-23 Spending by Function
 - o Statement of Revenues and Expenses
 - o Reserves and Transfers
- Process for developing quarterly reports.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- The financial statements, posted on MNO's website at www.mnoaga.ca are password protected, and require a citizenship number to access
- Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs) are not Secretariat income; they are the property of the Community Councils within a Region, and these funds are held in trust
- "5% of other revenue" is funding received specific to a project from non-governmental organizations
- Regarding attendance at Back to Batoche:
 - o Expenses were paid by MNO for 30 people to attend; some of the expenses would be billed back to the MNO; attendees were MNO staff and members of the PCMNO
 - o Individuals/citizens can also attend

- MNO had a pavilion providing education on the MNO and for many, it was a working trip
- The suggestion to consider options to support Community Councils/citizens with attending Batoche would be reviewed by the PCMNO
- The PCMNO has been discussing the issue of equality and equity regarding the allocation of funding
- An itemized list of expenses for the 2023 Rendezvous, 2023 Special General Assembly, past Annual General Assemblies and One Feather voting for the MNO province-wide plebiscite can be prepared and circulated to all Community Councils
- Adequate technology, to allow people to vote electronically at an AGA, has not yet been identified; MNO's IT Branch continues to diligently work on identify a secure solution
- One Feather voting was used for the province-wide plebiscite because there was no debate on the question, it was a simple, "yes" or "no" vote
- The funding from the economic development agreement (resource revenue sharing) was recently released, and it can be allocated as an expense for the year end
 - The interest income would fall under "other income"
 - MNO was working on allocating the interest income to the Regions; the allocation would be based on when the funding was received at the end of the fiscal
 - Funding was received in three installments; because one agreement has not been officially announced by the provincial government, legal counsel and the auditor recommended it be listed separately as "funding from the Province of Ontario"
 - The funding agreements outline criteria that must be followed; this information would be shared as the funding was allocated
- The Finance Branch would work with Region 1 to address an expense that was invoiced for last fiscal that should be paid
- The duty to consult is triggered for rights bearing Regions 1-5 and 7; the PCMNO has been discussing how to address the issue of citizens living in Regions 6, 8 and 9 who trace to a rights-bearing regions; allocation plans developed by Regions 1-5 and 7 included an allocation for Regions 6, 8 and 9.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Suggestions that MNO distribute financial information in paper form to allow for an adequate review and invite citizens/Community Council members to attend Back to Batoche using a lottery process
- Concern that Community Councils need to apply for grant funding rather than having funding allocated directly
- Councils with fewer citizens receiving the same funding as Community Councils with more citizens
- Support for addressing the issue of citizens who trace rights to rights-bearing regions, who no longer live in their home territory and do not receive the benefit of economic development/resource revenue sharing funding.

12.2 Approval of 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements

Benoit Groulx, Audit Partner, Baker Tilly LLP, referred to the Independent Auditor's Report. It was confirmed that the financial statements were a soft qualified opinion because the auditor was unable to verify the comparative financial information from Community Councils between 2022 and fiscal year 2023 in order to provide comparative financial statements. The statements fairly represented the financial position of the MNO Secretariat as of March 31, 2023, and the results

of operations and its cash flows for the year-end, in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations. There were no material misstatements in the financial statements.

Benoit Groulx led the meeting in a review of the Audited Financial Statements for the year-ending March 31, 2023.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Rowlinson confirmed quorum was present, with a total of 205 voting delegates in attendance.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- The line item “received from Provincial Ministry: Algonquin Treaty and Treaty Land Entitlement” includes administration expenses, professional and legal fees, and honouraria
- MNO is a mortgage holder for Le Villageois de Lafontaine; because MNO does not own this asset, it would not be included in Tangible Capital Assets
 - o Le Villageois de Lafontaine is paying interest on the mortgage to the MNO; the principle owed on the mortgage was being paid into a separate account to repay the mortgage
 - o As part of approving the mortgage, MNO required Le Villageois de Lafontaine to maintain a high residency of Métis citizens and prioritize Métis citizens when filling vacancies
- The need to address seniors housing and consider families with young children has been identified by MNO’s Housing and Infrastructure Branch
- Community Councils interested in depositing funds into a separate account or purchasing a guaranteed investment certificate should contact MNO’s Chief Financial Officer; a communiqué on the option to open alternate investment accounts for circulation can be provided to elected leadership.

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)

12.3 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)

13. Telling Our Stories

President Froh acknowledged the Kooshkopayiw Art Exhibition displayed in the main plenary room of the AGA, and spoke about the importance of telling stories, through words, action, and art.

Mitch Case, PCMNO Councilor, Region 4, reviewed a presentation with historical pictures and excerpts of historical records, telling the story of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Community, and the

work being done on the ground to tell this story⁴. During the presentation, Councilor Case shared information on:

- The need to do a better job of “telling our story”, and explain why *Powley* was successful
- The hope that the work that the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Community would inspire others to tell their story
- The rich and beautiful story of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Community, preserved and protected by leaders and elders
- The history of the Métis river lots, recognized by Métis and First Nations in the territory
- Written historical records about Métis parties, used to discuss important issues and for decision making
- Métis Elders’ stories shared about the building of the first church
- Stories shared about the Rougarou
- The need to remember Métis ancestors did not leave each other behind and that they supported each other and worked as a collective
- Métis being recognized as distinct from First Nations as part of the Treaty negotiations
- Métis in Sault Ste. Marie knowing who they are, having preserved and tracked their history
- Métis and First Nations petitioning for the Métis river lots to be protected
- Efforts to tell the story about the burning of Agawa Bay
- The use of historical records to support the *Powley* fight
- Current efforts by the Sault Ste. Marie Community to “tell the story”, including:
 - o Development of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Cultural Centre, that will house the first Métis museum in the province of Ontario and two permanent exhibits:
 - The “Remembering the Powley Case”; and
 - “Born Upon the Soil” (history of Métis river lots)
 - o A Powley Case Commemoration traveling exhibit available for booking
 - o Collections management system created for Métis history and artifacts
 - o “History of the Sault Métis” book to be published in partnership with the MNO
 - o Agawa Bay Oral history project
 - o Development of a Métis cultural competency course
 - o Development of a tourism app
 - o Graves Protection and Commemoration project
 - o “Métis Tours” walking and paddling tours
 - o Custom designed Lego Play sets based on the Sault Ste. Marie river lots being made in partnership with The Brickspace.

Councilor Case concluded by commenting on the importance of sharing stories.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 12:07 p.m. and reconvened at 1:09 p.m. During the break pre-recorded video message update on the Prosperity Trust was played.

14. Advancing Métis Rights and Self-Government

Jason Madden, Partner, Pape Salter Teillet LLP (PST), reviewed a presentation titled, “Leaving the ‘Legal Lacuna’: Understanding and Implementing Métis Self-Government”⁵, commenting on:

⁴ A video recording of this full presentation is posted to: <https://youtu.be/xv4r4vCmQqY>.

⁵ A video recording of this full presentation is posted to: https://youtu.be/ADB_gHGAzA.

- The need to “tell the stories”
- MNO’s work on the root ancestor’s project
- The need to rekindle the historical relationships and alliances with the Crown and other Indigenous peoples
- Setting the Stage for Canada and the different realities between the “Young Canada (1867 to 1870) and the “Ancient roots” map
- Canada’s expansion into the “North-West”
- The first encounters with “Halfbreeds” in Ontario
- The Métis of the Red River (Manitoba)
- Métis outside the Red River Settlement
- Treaty 3 (1873) and the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty 3 (1875)
- The “Halfbreeds of Rainy River and Lake” Adhesion (1875)
- Nicolas Chatelain’s Scrip Application (1878)
- Métis outside the Red River Settlement between 1878 and 1885
- Activities of Métis Scrip Commissions
- The Métis in Ontario petition in 1905 (Moose Factory)
- Understanding the “Legal Lacuna”
- The *Constitution Act, 1982* and section 35 expressly recognizing Métis
- The Métis hunt for justice in the courts
- Recommendation 16 from the Ministerial Special representative for the Isaac Report on Métis Rights in 2016
- Exploratory discussions, formal negotiations, and agreements
- Articles 4, 5 and 18 from the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- 2021, *R. v. Desautel*
- June 2019, signing of the Métis Government Recognition and self-Government Agreements (MGRSAs) by Canada with the MNA, MN-S and MNO
- February 2023 signing of the Métis Self-Government and Implementation Agreements by Canada with the MNA, MN-S and MNO
- Other self-government developments:
 - o MNO Registry Review process
 - o Citizen removal and appeals process
 - o Métis Nation of Alberta Province-wide ratification of Constitution in November 2022
- Métis Self-Government Implementation Legislation
- Additional issues, including:
 - o Litigation
 - o The “Revitalizing Our Stories, Histories, Alliances and Relationship Strategy”.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- The MGRSA does not provide for taxation for citizens or businesses owned by Métis people; there are provisions for a tax arrangement with the MNO as a government
 - o Individuals’ tax status will not change
 - o Whether elected leadership would pay taxes on their income, as an MNO government official, would be negotiated
- A Fiscal Financing Agreement will be negotiated; it will ensure full flexibility on how funds are used, to be decided on by the elected leadership

- Under the MGRSA, there is the ability for local and/or regional governance structures to have their own distinct legal status and capacity based on what is set out in the MNO Constitution; they would also have same tax benefits as the MNO
- The issue of mobility for harvester cards issued has not yet been addressed/negotiated
- Under self-government, MNO will have full jurisdiction over its citizenship
- The recently launched information on Bill C-53, on MNO's website, includes a template letter citizens can use to send letters to their MPs seeking their support for Bill C-53.

17. ORDINARY / NON-SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

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

Resolutions Committee Chair LePage, announced that the Resolutions Committee received and reviewed the Ordinary Business (Non-Special Business) Resolution regarding “Revitalizing Ontario Métis Stories, Histories, Alliances and Relationships”, and determined that it was compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002. As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration.

During discussion, comments were offered on: concern regarding the cost of building an institute; the intention of the resolution to work with government to secure funding; support for rekindling alliances with First Nations and engaging Canada's museums; a suggestion to ensure the document was accessible; and concern that the lived experiences and knowledge of Métis women was not included within the mandate of the resolution and document.

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)

15. SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions Committee Chair LePage reported that of the twelve Special Business Resolutions (SBRs) reviewed by the Committee, two resolutions #23-AGA-04 and #23-AGA-09 were withdrawn, seven were deemed to be compliant and three were deemed non-compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002.

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

SBR#01-AGA-01 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002 and was brought to the floor to be voted on.

During discussion, comments offered in support of the resolution included: the intention of the resolution to support the democratic will of citizens expressed through the province-wide plebiscite and June 2023 Special General Assembly; the need for a process to ensure the democratic will of citizens could not be easily undone by a vote of a few citizens at an Assembly and to avoid potentially rash decision-making on significant matters; the need to ensure that questions integral to the MNO Constitution (e.g., governance structure) were addressed as part of the Constitution-building process; that the “governance structures” affected by the resolution as outlined in MNO Bylaws include the nine MNO Regions, the PCMNO, Registry, Community Councils, Captains of the Hunt (COTH), MNOVC, MNOWC and MNOYC; the intention of the MNO to launch a five-stream MNO Self-Government Engagement Plan, the results of which would inform the drafting of the MNO Constitution; the four pathways outlined in the resolution to amend the foundational documents; the need to concentrate efforts on the Constitution building process; the resolution respecting the long, multi-year Registry Review process, engagement with citizens and the outcomes of the plebiscite and Special General Assembly; the resolution respecting the voices and direction of citizens; and the need for a stronger decision making process to ensure the hard work and milestones achieved could not be easily reversed.

Comments offered in opposition to the resolution included: concerns that approving the resolution would require a unanimous special resolution decision or approval at two consecutive meetings of the General Assembly, that citizens would not be able to advance the Statement of Prime Purpose at any AGA and that the process outlined in the resolution was not democratic; that the requirement of a special resolution only being approved if adopted at two consecutive AGAs was inconsistent with the Statement of Prime Purpose; concerns that approving the resolution would affect the 2023 Special Resolutions to be considered, and that citizens wanting to voice an opinion on a special resolution related to the governance structures not be able to attend two subsequent AGAs; and the need to define “Métis law” which does not appear in the MNO Bylaws.

In response to questions and comments, it was noted that:

- The resolution would not affect all Special Resolutions or all potential amendments; it only affects the Bylaws, Registry Policy specific to citizenship requirements, the governance structures and Statement of Prime Purpose
 - o These documents could still be amended using the process outlined in the resolution
- As reflected in the resolution, the movers/seconders on a special resolution adopted at two consecutive meetings of the General Assembly do not need to be the same, and multiple individuals can be identified
- If the resolution passes, it would take effect immediately.

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)

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

SBR#23-AGA-02 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002 and was brought to the floor to be voted on.

During discussion, comments offered in support of the resolution included: recognition that the Supreme Court in *Powley* identified that the issue of Métis claims was insurmountable; comments

made at the June 17, 2023 Special General Assembly, that MNO should not be constrained by colonial laws and concerns that a colonial document was required to prove citizenship; concern that MNO's Registry was not implementing Clause 9 of the Registry Policy appropriately; and there was support being offered by CCR Research Group to help people missing documents and support families that are not verified.

Comments offered in opposition included: concerns the amendment was unclear regarding what an MNO sponsored record was, that an applicant could rely on oral history and that the resolution would result in a step back for all the work accomplished; the Registry Policy provides certainty around verifying Métis ancestry; concerns the resolution does not clarify what the boundaries of oral history would be and that "oral history" was undefined; concern that approving the resolution would create a short cut to endorsing Métis history and result in oral conjecture of possible Métis history; the lack of clarity regarding why the date of 1750 was chosen; and the need for factual references.

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)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rowlinson thanked delegates for their participation during Day Two of the Assembly. The 30th MNO AGA, held August 18-20, 2023, adjourned on Day Two – August 19, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

DAY THREE – August 20, 2023

Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) Update

Prior to the Assembly reconvening, a pre-recorded video message update on the MVDF was played.

MNO 2023 AGA BUSINESS MEETING RECONVENED

16. MNO 2023 AGA Reconvenes

The 2022 MNO AGA held August 18-20, 2023, reconvened on Day Three – August 20, 2023, at 8:38 a.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF YOUTH ART WINNERS

Amanda Pont-Shanks, Programs and Services Manager, ELCC, announced the runners-up and winners of the youth art colouring contest.

President Froh joined delegates in thanking the ELCC team for the child care provided at the AGA.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Rowlinson confirmed quorum was present with a total of 216 delegates in attendance and announced that, given the number of resolutions to consider, a three-minute time limit for speakers would be implemented.

15. SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS (CONT'D)

15.3 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

SBR#23-AGA-06 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002 and was brought to the floor to be voted on. During discussion, comments were offered on: the intention of the resolution to add one line to the aims and objectives of the Statement of Prime Purpose; the importance of protecting Métis rights for future generations; support for the resolution as a valuable addition recognizing rights fought long and hard for; concern with the use of "inalienable" and that the term was meant to suggest that human rights of life, liberty and possession of property were inalienable, setting Métis up against other humans as better or less than; opposition given that a resolution was approved earlier at the Assembly for a new process for amendment to the Statement of Prime Purpose; concern that the wording was confusing; that the United Nations and *R. v. Van der Peet* Supreme Court of Canada case use the term "inalienable"; and support that the use of the term inalienable would not lessen the rights of others.

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)

- 15.4 Special Business Resolution #23-AGA-07: Special Resolution to Amend the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose in furtherance of ambiguously protecting our Métis rights**
Resolutions Committee Chair LePage advised that, at the request of the mover and seconder, SBR#23-AGA-07 was withdrawn.
- 15.5 Special Business Resolution #23-AGA-08: Special Resolution on Harvester Card Term and Fees**
SBR#23-AGA-08 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002 and was brought to the floor to be voted on.

During discussion, comments were offered on: the intention of the resolution to harmonize/align the terms of citizenship and harvester cards, based on the input of the COTH; support for the resolution as it would reduce the workload on the COTH and alleviate capacity issues; concerns that there was the potential for a fee to be implemented in the future; support given that the resolution clarifies that any fees to be set in the future, would be at the direction of the PCMNO.

Point of Order

A point of order was raised that there are no individual harvesting rights, that harvesting rights are collective, and belong to the community.

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)

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

SBR#23-AGA-10 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002 and was brought to the floor to be voted on. During discussion, comments were offered on: the intention of the resolution to ensure that the maps were consistent, and that the traditional territory harvesting map included in the Harvesting Agreement aligns with the Registry Policy map; support given that using the old map would undermine the rigour of the Registry; and that approving the resolution would not result in a change to the regional boundaries.

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)

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

Resolutions Committee Chair LePage explained that the Committee found that the resolution was compliant with the four-square corners of the MNO Policy #2011-002, which requires that "The special resolution must identify the specific clause to be amended. The resolution must propose the exact wording changes." The resolution does that for article 14 of the MNO Bylaws, and the Policy does not technically require all related amendments across all MNO governance documents to be proposed at the same time. As such, the Committee does not have authority to reject the

resolution on that basis. If there were inconsistencies in different governing documents after a particular resolution is adopted, MNO would have to address those inconsistencies in future.

During discussion, comments offered in support of the resolution included: recognition for the role of the MNOWC within the MNO; the vision main goals of the MNOWC; the history of women within the MNO; that approving the resolution would ensure women have a voice at the PCMNO; support for the spirit of women being represented while also ensuring all genders were represented; acknowledgment of the MNOWC's accomplishments; concern that the current high number of women on the PCMNO could change in the next election; the need to acknowledge the effects of colonization on Indigenous women, the history and the continued struggle for equality; support for the resolution given while there are women on the PCMNO, it did not automatically mean that women were represented; support for the Two-Spirit Council*, MNOVC and MNOWC having a seat on the PCMNO, with a budget.

Comments offered in opposition to the resolution included: concern the resolution did not reflect how the MNOWC would be elected; recognition that there are currently eight women, with strong voices, on the PCMNO; support for the Constitution-building process to consider how women will be included in the new governance structure; concern given that the MNOWC President was not elected as part of the PCMNO ballot box election process; concern, given that there is an age restriction for youth in sections of the Secretariat Act, and the MNOWC Terms of Reference do not have conditions around age; that women have a strong voice both on the PCMNO, and at Community Councils; concern the resolution contradicts MNO Bylaws; concern that, a resolution was approved at 2022 AGA supporting the development of the MNOWC Charter which would be shared with the regions and it was not; concern that MNOWC representatives can hold more than one position, which contravenes the rules for the PCMNO; approving the resolution would financially bind the MNO; the need for clarification that, if the resolution were approved, whether women PCMNO Regional Councilors no longer represent women; concern that the MNOWC's current structure does not represent all women and that all women do not have a voice at the MNOWC; concern given a comment at the MNOWC's 2023 AGM that they do not represent women under the age of 30 and that if the resolution were approved, amendments to MNO Bylaws and governance documents would be required; concern that the resolution was undemocratic, and it would devalue the other PCMNO positions/roles.

Legal counsel referred to the comments by the Resolutions Chair regarding the need to address inconsistencies across governing documents after a resolution was adopted. It was noted that the MNO Bylaws reflect that the PCMNO was to be elected in the process outlined in the Electoral Code and, as such, the Electoral Code would need to be amended to allow for an MNOWC member on the PCMNO. If adopted, the resolution would result in inconsistency in how PCMNO members were elected.

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)

17. ORDINARY / NON-SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions Committee Chair LePage, announced that the Resolutions Committee received and reviewed 21 Ordinary Business (non-Special Business) Resolutions. The Committee determined that 12 were deemed compliant. Four Ordinary Resolutions required additional cross referencing to confirm their compliance with MNO Policy #2011-002⁶. One resolution, regarding revitalizing stories, was approved on Day One of the AGA. It was noted that consideration of an Ordinary Business resolution earlier in the meeting was consistent with past AGA practices.

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

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. During discussion, comments offered in support for the resolution included: that the MNOYC have staff seconded from MNO's Education and Training program; there was a need to recognize youth leadership; the need for youth ages 13-16 to continue learning outside the ELCC program; and recognition that other Métis Governments have youth branches.

In response to questions, it was noted that although MNOYC's draft terms of reference reflects that the MNOYC represents people ages 16-29, youth who have aged out of ELCC (ages 13-16) could also be represented. The MNOYC was supportive of discussing how the creation of a Youth Branch would affect the other MNO Branches.

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 meets the needs of Métis Youth in the province of Ontario.

RESOLVED (AGA230820-03)

⁶ Recording Secretary's Note: These four Ordinary Resolutions were subsequently deemed non-compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002.

(154 in favour; 45 opposed; 7 abstentions)

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

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration.

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 Harris, 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)

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

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. Comments were offered in support, given the need to promote Michif which is an important language for Métis; opposition given that there is language funding and programming currently underway, that Region 1 does not use Ontario Michif, that there are different dialects of Michif throughout the province, and that the resolution would cause confusion with other programs underway.

Given the number of proposed friendly amendments offered on the resolution, several delegates, along with the mover and seconder, met with legal counsel to discuss proposed amendments and subsequently presented a revised resolution for consideration.

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)

17.4 Ordinary Resolution #OR-04: Infinity Investments Strategic Review

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration.

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 that the PCMNO initiate a strategic review of Infinity Investments with the goal of strengthening the results for our communities.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA230820-06)

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Rowlinson confirmed quorum was present with a total of 181 delegates in attendance.

17.5 Ordinary Resolution #OR-06: Washing Machine Filters

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. During discussion comments offered included: the need to recognize that Métis are water guardians and there are no financial implications associated with the resolution; that the resolution would allow MNO to lobby for changes; a suggestion that the MNO consider petitioning the government to ban microplastics.

In response to a question, the Assembly was informed that the washing machine filter would be returned to the manufacturer to remove the contaminants and then recycle the filter.

Given the number of proposed friendly amendments offered on the resolution, several delegates, along with the mover and seconder, met with legal counsel to discuss proposed amendments and subsequently presented a revised resolution for consideration.

It was MOVED (Diane Kilby) 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)

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

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. During discussion comments offered included: that approval of the resolution would result in improved communications between students and support staff, improved transparency and ensure an equitable process; recognition for the importance of Post-Secondary Education Support Program (PSESP) funding; the need to establish tangible evidence of how many youth are using the funds in order to lobby for additional/future funding; the value of data collection; support for assisting Métis post-secondary students; recognition for the importance of education to the MNO; and need to ensure the Government of Canada was aware of the need to fund students out of province and out-of-country.

Given the number of proposed friendly amendments offered on the resolution, several delegates, along with the mover and seconder, met with legal counsel to discuss proposed amendments and subsequently presented a revised resolution for consideration.

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)

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

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. During discussion comments included: support for the resolution given the importance of providing citizens and Council members the opportunity to share stories and learn more about their Métis heritage; the importance of celebrating all battles Métis were part of; that approval of the resolution would eliminate barriers for citizens wanting to attend Battle of Batoche yearly celebrations; the need to seek funding while ensuring resources were not used to undermine legitimate stories; the need for a process to ensure that all citizens would have an equal opportunity to attend Back to Batoche; and opposition, given that the resolution excludes youth.

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)

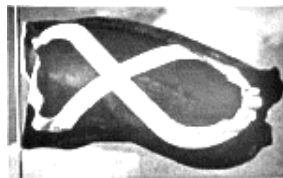
17.8 Ordinary Resolution #OR-08: MNO Flag

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. During discussion comments were offered on: recognition that other Métis

Governments have flags to represent them, and that there has been support for an MNO flag for many years.

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)

Chair Rowlinson confirmed that Ordinary Resolutions, #OR-09, #OR-10 and #OR-11 which were not considered due to time constraints, would be brought to the PCMNO for consideration and posted on MNO's website.

18. Research Project on Residential Schools

Due to time constraints, this agenda item not considered.

MNO 2023 AGA – BUSINESS MEETING CONCLUDES

Chair Rowlinson thanked citizens for their participation in the 2023 AGA and extended appreciation to the MNO staff, host Community Councils, and hotel staff, for their work in supporting a successful Assembly.

President Froh expressed appreciation at the democracy reflected during the Assembly and noted that MNO's Assemblies were grounded in history, and they provide an opportunity to celebrate, tell stories and debate. The President thanked the Resolutions Committee and acknowledged delegates, the Chair, Vice-Chair, citizens, leadership, staff, and volunteers for their participation and contributions to a successful 30th AGA and confirmed that more information on Bill C-53 would be circulated in the coming days and weeks.

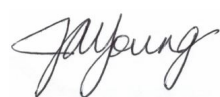
Chair Rowlinson confirmed that in the future, the AGA Agenda would be developed to ensure it was streamlined so that all resolutions were presented and considered.

CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

The 30th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly, held August 18-20, 2023, concluded on Day 3 – August 20, 2023, at 11:57 a.m. Executive Senator Gravelle offered a Closing Prayer.

* * * *

This is a true and correct copy of the 30th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 18-20, 2023, and incorporates any and all amendments made at the time of adoption.



Jo Anne Young, Secretary-Treasurer



Hank Rowlinson, Chair

Acronym List

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

AGA	Annual General Assembly
COTH	Captains of the Hunt
ELCC	Early Learning and Child Care
LFMO	Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak
MGRSA	Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement
MII	Métis Infinity Investments
MNA	Métis Nation of Alberta
MNBC	Métis Nation British Columbia
MNC	Métis National Council
MNO	Métis Nation of Ontario
MNOCC	Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission
MNOVC	Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran's Council
MNOWC	Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council
MNOYC	Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council
MP	Member of Parliament
MPP	Member of Provincial Parliament
MN-S	Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
MVDF	Métis Voyageur Development Fund
NDP	New Democratic Party
PCMNO	Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario

PST	Pape Salter Teillet
RCAP	Royal Commission Report on Aboriginal Peoples
PSESP	Post-Secondary Education Support Program
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

List of Reference Materials

The following reference materials were available to participants at the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 18-20, 2023, and were posted online at www.mnoaga.ca:

- Draft Agenda for the August 18-20, 2023, 30th Annual General Assembly
- AGA Sponsors
- Welcome Letter from the PCMNO
- Administrative Reports:
 - o Region 1
 - o Region 2
 - o Region 3
 - o Region 4
 - o Region 5 (video)
 - o Region 6
 - o Region 7
 - o Region 8
 - o Region 9
 - o PCMNO Youth Representative
 - o PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative
 - o PCMNO Senator Steven Callaghan
- MNO Reference Documents:
 - o MNO Statement of Prime Purpose
 - o MNO Bylaws
 - o MNO Standing Rules
 - o Métis Rules of Order (Draft)
 - o Code of Conduct (Draft)
 - o Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy (Draft)
 - o MNO Policy 2021-001 re Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services
 - o MNO Policy 2022-002 re Verification of MNO Citizenship File Status and to Other Governments and Third-Party Institutions
 - o MNO Policy 2022-001 re Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services
- Economic Development:
 - o MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law
 - o MNO Policy on Local and Regional Opportunities on Business Opportunities
- AGA Business:
 - o MNO AGA 2023 Special Business Resolutions
 - o MNO AGA 2022 Draft Minutes
 - o MNO AGA 2022 Record of Resolutions
 - o Policy #2011-002, Process for Conducting Special Business at a General Assembly
- MNO Cultural Commission (MNOCC):
 - o MNOCC By-Laws
 - o MNOCC Year End Report
- Special Assembly:

- MNO Special Assembly Minutes
- MNO Advisory Councils and Working Groups:
 - MNO Women's Council
 - MNO Youth Council
- Economic Updates:
 - Métis Voyageur Development Fund
 - Métis Infinity Investments