



2024 MINUTES

Minutes of the 31st Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) held August 16-28, 2024, at 93 Jury Drive, Penetanguishene, Ontario, prepared by Barinder Lalli, Recording Secretary.

Recording Secretary Note: The agenda was varied throughout the meeting. Items are recorded in the order in which they were considered.

DAY ONE – August 16, 2024

MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY – OPENING CEREMONIES

The 31st MNO AGA commenced with the Colour Guard led by Métis Fiddler Alicia Blore, and former MNO President Tony Belcourt. The Grand Entry and Procession of dignitaries included the Métis Veterans, Senators, and members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (MNOWC), and Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC).

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 9:08 a.m. and welcomed delegates.

OPENING PRAYER/TRADITIONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Honourary Senator Rene Gravelle, PCMNO

Honourary Senator Rene Gravelle offered an Opening Prayer.

Executive Senator Steven Callaghan, PCMNO

Executive Senator Callaghan acknowledged the traditional territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation and the traditional harvesting territory of Georgian Bay Métis Community on which the meeting was taking place.

Hank Rowlinson, Chair, PCMNO

Chair Rowlinson thanked Honourary Senator Rene Gravelle for the Opening Prayer, Executive Senator Steven Callaghan for the land acknowledgment and welcomed delegates. Chair Rowlinson acknowledged the significance of hosting this year's AGA outdoors for the first time in over a decade and recognized the host communities who have contributed to making the AGA a success.

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.

Chair Rowlinson invited the meeting to offer a moment of silence for those who have passed since the last Assembly. A video recording provided an in-memoriam dedication to Doris Evans, Renee Lillian Nirkkola, Dolores Pinder, and Robert “Bob” Secord.

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 detailed information of the proceedings over the weekend.

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS AND YEAR IN REVIEW¹

Margaret Froh, President, MNO

President Froh welcomed distinguished delegates, honoured guests, past and present Métis leadership, staff and fellow MNO Citizens to the 31st Métis Nation of Ontario AGA. President Froh thanked the fiddler, Veterans Colour Guard, and Honourary Senator Rene Gravelle and Executive Senator Steven Callaghan for the Opening Prayer and Land Acknowledgement. President Froh also thanked the Georgian Bay Métis Council and the leadership and citizens of Region 7 for hosting the 31st AGA.

President Froh acknowledged the significance of holding the meeting in Penetanguishene, a place of historic significance for Métis in the Upper Great Lakes, being the place where many Métis relocated to after their lands on Drummond Island were ceded by the British to the Americans in 1828, and where they took collective action and petitioned the Crown for recognition of their distinct identity and rights in 1840.

President Froh announced that four new Senators had been elected to the PCMNO including Donna Grenier, Liliane Ethier, Cecile Coutu, and Steven Callaghan, who was elected as Executive Senator. President Froh thanked Honourary Senators Rene Gravelle and Garry Laframboise for their incredible contributions to the MNO.

While acknowledging the significant successes of the MNO, President Froh noted that there have also been ongoing challenges with the harmful rhetoric from some First Nations leaders in Ontario and the Manitoba Metis Federation. Despite these challenges, MNO will continue to efforts to dispel the harmful rhetoric and to build diplomacy. President Froh emphasized that the work of Métis diplomacy is a collective responsibility.

President Froh also shared that, while the future of Bill C-53 remains uncertain, there is hope that in a few months’ time there would be a celebration for the Royal Assent of Bill C-53, MNO’s self-government legislation. It was noted that, in response to strong opposition from some vocal First Nations leaders, stoking division, the MNO has been pushing back with an education campaign to share the incredible stories and the rich history of Métis in Ontario.

Despite these challenges, there have been many successes. President Froh reviewed and highlighted the achievements of the MNO Branches in providing extraordinary programs and services to Métis families and communities across the province in the areas of Self-Government, Intergovernmental Relations,

¹ A video recording of the full State of the Nation is posted to: [enter link](#)

Rights, Research and Policy, Captains of the Hunt, Education and Training, Finance, Human Resources, Information and Communication Technologies, Communications, Lands, Resources and Consultations, Housing and Infrastructure, Community Wellbeing, Community Relations, Healing and Wellness, and Registry.

President Froh also shared the significant strides made through the Advisory Councils and provided highlights on environmental and climate change initiatives, which ensure that the voices of the communities are heard on these critical issues. In closing, President Froh extended a heartfelt thank you to Council Members, Regional leadership, the PCMNO, and all citizens and staff for their commitment to the Nation.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 10:20 a.m. and reconvened at 10:33 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PCMNO

Margaret Froh, President, MNO

President Froh noted it was a privilege and honor to introduce the newly elected PCMNO. A video was shared introducing each of the PCMNO members. President Froh also shared greetings from Senator Gary Laframboise, and Region 3 Councilor Jacques Picotte who were unable to provide pre-recorded greetings.

INTRODUCTION OF AGA HOST PRESIDENT/COMMUNITIES

Ron LePage, President, Georgian Bay Métis Council

Council President Ron LePage welcomed delegates to the 31st MNO AGA and extended greetings on behalf of the Georgian Bay Métis Council. President LePage shared that many in attendance are descendants of the community, and he welcomed them back to their ancestral land.

Councilor Tony Muscat, Barrie-South Simcoe Métis Council, and Councilor Chris Coture, Great Lakes Métis Council, were also acknowledged as representatives of the host communities.

Greg Garratt, Region 6 Councilor, PCMNO

Councilor Garratt, Region 6, PCMNO, welcomed delegates to the 31st MNO AGA and recognized the importance of the land on which the meeting was taking place. Councilor Garratt encouraged delegates to join the pontoon boat cruise taking place that evening to view the historical points of the area.

WELCOMING REMARKS FROM DIGNITARIES AND GUESTS²

Cassidy Caron, President, Métis National Council (MNC)

MNC President Caron acknowledged dignitaries, the Senators, the Colour Guard led by the fiddler, President Froh, PCMNO leadership, MNOYC, Elders, Community Councils, and citizens. President Caron shared that it was an honour to be present at the 31st MNO AGA, her first under a tent.

President Caron noted that the AGA is a cornerstone to governance and democracy. For those present for the first time, she commented on the importance of their presence to hear updates from their government as they will be integral in guiding the direction of the MNO.

² A video recording of remarks from dignitaries is available at: [enter link](#)

President Caron acknowledged former MNO President Tony Belcourt, for his work not only at the MNO level, but as well at the MNC.

President Caron thanked everyone for their support and shared that, as a citizen of the MNO, she would see everyone again at the next AGA.

Andrea Sandmaier, President, Otipemisiwak Métis Government

A pre-recorded video of Andrea Sandmaier, President, Otipemisiwak Métis Government, was shared with delegates. President Sandmaier shared best wishes for a successful AGA and commented on the importance of the event in sharing Métis culture, from one generation to the next. It was noted that the challenges faced by Métis are not insignificant, and by working together, and sharing successes, the Nation will be stronger.

Lissa Smith, President, Métis Nation of British Columbia

A pre-recorded video of Lissa Smith, President, Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC), was shared with delegates. President Smith shared that in these challenging times when communities face trials, it is more important than ever to find strength in unity. Métis are resilient, proud, and are stronger together. President Smith shared that Métis ancestors persevered by supporting one another and not losing sight of shared goals. The strength of the Métis people lies in diversity, fairness, justice, and mutual respect. President Smith reaffirmed the dedication to work together to forge a better future.

Garry Bailey, President, Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN)

A pre-recorded video of Garry Bailey, President, Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN) was shared with delegates. President Bailey, on behalf of NWTMN, shared best wishes for a successful AGA and noted that although there may be different visions within each of the territories, in unity, there will be success. The Nation has come a long way since the Louis Riel rebellion, and the Nation will continue to move forward and succeed. President Bailey thanked delegates and looked forward to working with the MNO in the future.

WELCOMING REMARKS FROM CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Jennifer St. Germain, Chief Strategy Officer (CSO), Métis Nation Ontario

Jennifer St. Germain, CSO, confirmed that the MNO Annual Report provides a snapshot of the successes of the MNO, and of the work of staff across the province. Jennifer St. Germain acknowledged the theme of this year's AGA, "Telling our Stories," and shared that her role has come full circle as she had spent many years at AGAs under tents as child, and is now doing so as a staff member of the MNO. It was emphasized that no one should assume that people know who the MNO represents it has not been easy building the government, but with citizens coming out, asking questions, and demanding better, the tide will continue to turn.

Joanne Meyer, Chief Operations Officer (COO), Métis Nation Ontario

Joanne Meyer, COO, shared that she joined the MNO in 2008 when it was going through some troubling times, and has seen the MNO go through many changes and achieved many successes. Joanne Meyer congratulated delegates, citizens, and staff that have contributed to the success of the MNO over the years and she encouraged everyone to review the Annual Report which highlights the wide range of programs and services that have been offered by the MNO. Delegates were reminded that staff are also available at booths to provide further information for the duration of the AGA.

OVERVIEW OF AGA PROCEDURES

Chair Rowlinson reviewed the Métis Rules of Order, AGA Standing Rules and decorum for the meeting, and confirmed that the Chair or Vice-Chair would intervene should any rules be violated.

Former MNO President Tony Belcourt shared stories of his history and work with the MNO, including stories relating to the recognition of Métis in Canada, and the inception of the MNO.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 12:04 p.m. with Honourary Senator Rene Gravelle providing a blessing for the food. The meeting reconvened at 1:03 p.m. During the break, a pre-recorded video message was displayed providing an annual update from Métis Infinity Investments.

MNO 2023 AGA BUSINESS MEETING COMMENCES

1. Establish Quorum

Vice-Chair Cadeau reported that there were 554 registered voting delegates in attendance at 12:00 p.m. on Day 1 of the Assembly, which set quorum at 227.

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.

2. Meeting Begins and Voting Technology Explained

A representative from DOTS reviewed the electronic voting system using the “clickers” provided, allowing for participation and electronic voting throughout the Assembly.

3. Adoption of the 2024 Annual General Assembly Agenda

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

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

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA240816-01)

4. Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

Chair Rowlinson reviewed the process for nominating and appointing the Resolutions Committee. The floor was opened for nominations with five names of candidates presented. The floor was closed for nominations.

Chair Rowlinson recognized the following nominees for the 2024 MNO Resolutions Committee:

- Steve Callaghan
- Rob Baskey
- Kyle Cadeau
- Joshua Charpentier
- Ron LePage.

All nominees were requested to confirm they accepted their nomination. Steve Callaghan declined the nomination. The remaining nominees accepted their nomination.

Following the confirmation of the nominees, citizens were invited to vote for up to three of the four nominees indicated.

Announcement of the 2024 Resolutions Committee

Chair Rowlinson announced that, by a secret vote, the following individuals were appointed to the 2024 MNO Resolutions Committee:

- Kyle Cadeau
- Joshua Charpentier
- Ron LePage.

Point of Order

Diane Kilby and Charlotte Hunter Louttit-Kijekijik rose on a Point of Order to withdraw Special Resolution #1 that they had previously submitted.

5. 2023 AGA Minutes

5.1 Adoption of the 2023 AGA Minutes

Jo Anne Young, Secretary-Treasurer, reviewed the resolutions in the draft minutes of the MNO 2023 AGA³, and confirmed that printed copies were available at the AGA, and were also posted on the MNO AGA website. Minor edits had been made for punctuation and to provide consistent terminology.

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

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

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA240816-02)

5.2 Business Arising from 2023 AGA Minutes

No items of business arising.

6. Introduction of Métis Rules of Order and Métis Conduct

Chair Rowlinson confirmed that the draft revised Métis Rules of Order and the revised draft Métis Code of Conduct, pending approval from the Resolutions Committee, will be considered for ratification by the AGA.

Tara Luxmore, Senior Advisor, Intergovernmental and Community Relations, Jen Terry, Self-Government Regional Manager, and Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau reviewed a PowerPoint presentation titled “Code of Conduct, A Guide for Living Together in Good Relations”, providing an overview of the revision process of the document from the development to the engagement, and finally to the presentation to the AGA. Key changes and highlights from the Code of Conduct were reviewed. It was highlighted that the Code of Conduct is based on the four values of democracy, respect, fairness/equity, and honesty/truth.

³ The 2023 AGA Minutes and Record of Resolutions are posted on the MNO AGA [website](#)

A PowerPoint presentation titled “Métis Rules of Order” was also shared which reviewed the history of the Métis Rules of Order. It was highlighted that the document has never been ratified by the AGA. The purpose of the Métis Rules of Order is to facilitate meetings that are effective, clear, inclusive, and that lead to thoughtful and credible decisions. The Métis Rules of Order have been divided into four parts: how to conduct a meeting in a good way, addressing best practices and common challenges, the formal procedural rules of order, and evaluations.

7. Introduction of Video: “Gathered Together, 30 Years of AGAs”

Chair Rowlinson introduced a video showcasing imagery of former AGAs from 1993 to present.

Sponsors Acknowledged

The AGA sponsors were recognized for their contributions.

8. Advisory Councils

Delegates were informed that Advisory Council Update Reports could be viewed on the [MNO Website](#).

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 17, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rowlinson thanked delegates for their participation during Day One of the Assembly. The 31st MNO AGA, held August 16-18, 2024, adjourned on Day One – August 16, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.

DAY TWO – August 17, 2024

MNO 2024 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 17, 2024.

9. MNO 2024 AGA Reconvenes

The 2024 MNO AGA held August 16-18, 2024, reconvened on Day Two – August 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Rowlinson welcomed participants, recalled discussions, presentations, and activities from Day One, and offered a reminder of the Standing Rules of Order.

PRE-RECORDED WELCOMING REMARKS FROM DIGNITARIES⁴

Hon. Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree extended greetings and noted the importance of the AGA for setting goals for the coming year. The MNO has been working to advance priorities through different

⁴ A video recording of remarks from dignitaries is available at: [insert link](#)

programs, such as the First-Time Homebuyers Program, which show its dedication and commitment. The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree shared that he looked forward to continuing to work with the MNO to create shared solutions and walk the path of reconciliation. It was highlighted that the MNOs resilience, perseverance, and strength is admirable.

Hon. Arif Virani, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

The Honourable Arif Virani congratulated the newly elected PCMNO and President Froh on her acclamation and shared that the Government of Canada is proud of its relations with the MNO, and that the MNO has raised many important issues related to self-determination and self-government. It was highlighted that the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA) Action plan, which includes 13 specific measures, will facilitate the advancement of the rights of Métis.

Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault acknowledged the importance of the AGA being held by the water and noted the need for its protection. The Honourable Steven Guilbeault highlighted the partnership with the MNO for the water monitoring program, with over 103 members collecting data. The programs help protect the eco system, which protect everyone and connects everyone with the land and water. Best wishes on a successful AGA were extended, and for a prosperous harvest.

10. Financial Update

10.1 Secretary-Treasurer's Update/Finance Report

Mary Jessop, Director of Finance, and Secretary-Treasurer Young reviewed a presentation titled, "AGA Presentation, August 17, 2024" reporting on financial activities over the past year, commenting on:

- The growth of MNO to a \$120+ million organization with over 250 programs, and 450 staff
- The recognition that MNO holds not-for-profit and government status
- Recognition of Community Council volunteers to ensure that Finance Liaisons have the required information needed by the audit team
- Acknowledgement of the new financial system that will provide real time information to ensure accurate reporting
- The approval from the PCMNO, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC), to have a management review all Community Council reporting within five years
 - o The distinction between an audit and a management review including that a review looks at governance structure and compliance with policies and recommendations, while an audit provides an opinion
- The postponement of the request for proposals (RFP) for Audit Services due to the recent departure of the Chief Financial Officer
- Fourth (4th) Quarter financials, including:
 - o Revenue sources
 - o Expenditures by department
 - o Revenues and expenses on the Statement of Operations.

In response to a query regarding why financial reporting on Le Villageois de Lafontaine was not available, Secretary-Treasurer Young noted that the mortgage for that property is administered through the Prosperity Trust, and, in their report, they review their assets. As the property is not a Secretariat asset, it is not included on MNO's statement.

10.2 Approval of 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements

Benoit Groulx, Audit Partner, Baker Tilly LLP, referred to the Independent Auditor's Report. It was confirmed that the financial statements hold a qualified opinion as the auditor was unable to verify the comparative financial information from Community Councils between 2023 and fiscal year 2024. The statements fairly represented the financial position of the MNO Secretariat as of March 31, 2024, 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, 2024.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- The position within the Ministry of Safety that has a salary of \$73,423 attributed to it is located in Southwestern Ontario, not Kenora
- Materiality was set at \$1,000,000 and the only adjustments provided by management were insignificant
- Regarding investments:
 - o Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs) for the Secretariat and some Community Council investments are held by Meridian Credit Union, they have a table at the AGA and questions regarding those investments can be directed to them
 - o Community Councils receive reports every quarter on the investments that the Secretariat holds on their behalf
 - o The financial statements contain a note about the GICs and their starting balance, additions, totals, and the various companies that the investments are held in
 - o MNO is hoping to have consolidated statements moving forward, which would include Community Council investments; this would change the qualified opinion that MNO holds to an unqualified opinion
 - o Métis Infiniti Investments is a separate legal entity
- On page 31, the funds in the "MNO Community Council Governance" are reserve funds to support the increased demands on community representatives; this year, \$535,000 has been allocated to the reserve and it was the responsibility of the PCMNO to approve those allocations
- The HST allotment is not accumulated, it is presented transaction by transaction, and MNO receives a public service rebate for it
- The note on assets in trust can be expanded in future years to show where the properties are held
- PBR is not calculated by Region, staff are working to prepare the PBR specific to Region 1
- Economic Development funding was not segregated; when the money was received it was put into a general account, so some work will be required to determine interest amounts on that funding
- The T4A requested for the vendor in Region 1 has been sent; Canada Post did not recognize the original address provided and permission was requested by the MNO to provide it by email
- Each year, refinements are requested for the financial statements, and efforts are always made to make those changes
- Written responses to Councilor Stenlund's questions will be provided in the coming week

- On page 3, it is accurate that there was a 60% drop in the accounts receivable as that is always dependent on when funding is received versus when it is spent; it is a picture in a point of time, and is not reflective of the overall picture
- Enabling Functions include those groups of services that do not bring in revenue (e.g., information technology, communications, finance, etc.)
- Regarding the \$5 million surplus:
 - o Once funds are allocated to the “MNO Community Council Governance” they have to be used for that purpose, whether more funds from the surplus are allocated to this reserve would be at the discretion of the PCMNO
 - o Some of the surplus will be kept in “Strategic Resources” to allow the Secretariat to use unrestricted surplus in other ways
 - o Efforts are underway to have more reliable and sustainable funding into Secretariat that is not tied to program funding.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Rowlinson confirmed quorum was present, with a total of 232 voting delegates in attendance.

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

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

RESOLVED (AGA240817-01)

(180 in favour; 43 opposed; 10 abstentions)

10.3 Appointment of the Auditor

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

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

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA240817-02)

Point of Order

In response to a Point of Order regarding the inability to ensure a quorum was being maintained due to delegates coming into and out of the tent, Chair Rowlinson agreed that moving forward, all voting would take place by secret vote.

Health Break

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 17, 2024.

The Assembly recessed at 10:20 a.m. and reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

11. Self-Government Update

Brian Black, MNO Director of Self-Government, Alexandria Winterburn, Aird & Berlis LLP, shared a presentation titled, “Advancing Métis Self-Government in Ontario” commenting on:

- Self-government work that MNO is engaged in
- History of Métis communities in Ontario
- The timeline of Métis Self-Government and Métis peoples’ inherent right to self-government

- The history of standing up for rights beginning long before Section 35, before the MNO, and even before Canada was formed
- As Canada became Canada, history began to be erased, and all actions taking place now are being done to restore that history
- Canada's lack of acknowledgement of Métis as Aboriginal people, resulting in the struggles of Métis for two centuries
- Examples Métis collective action in Western Canada
- The shift of landscape with the *Constitution Act, 1982* and Section 35, and acknowledgement that Métis are a distinct, rights bearing group
- The impact of three cases that went to the Supreme Court of Canada (*R. v. Powley 2003*, (*MMF v. Canada 2013*), and (*Daniels v. Canada 2016*)
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Canada in 2017, including the Framework Agreement and negotiation process, resulting in two self-government agreements
 - Additional agreement reached in 2023, which builds on the first agreement
- MNO Internal work including the development of a Constitution, in consultation with communities to develop key Métis laws
- MNO work with Canada including Implementation Legislation, and Treaty negotiations
 - Bill C-53 introduced to Parliament in June 2023 and has received first and second reading and was considered by Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN)
 - The Committee process was disheartening and disappointing as many who spoke were misinformed
 - Hundreds of meetings were held between MNO and MPs and Cabinet Officials
 - Bill C-53 is awaiting third reading, before it can be referred to the Senate, and finally before it can be passed into law
- Work underway on other agreements including fiscal negotiations, Tax Treatment Agreements, and the implementation plan
 - Fiscal negotiation relates to obtaining the core operational costs for the government, not just for the Secretariat, but also capacity funding for Community Councils
 - Tax Treatment Agreements would ensure that the MNO receives the same tax treatment as other governments in Canada; this is not a tax exemption that First Nations are entitled to
 - The implementation plan is more mechanical, outlining how to work with Canada to monitor and assess where the gaps are, and obtain evidence to fill gaps
- Priorities and next steps, including collective priorities
 - The 2023 AGA resolution on revitalizing our stories, histories, alliance and relationships
 - The June 2024 PCMNO strategic priorities resolution.

11.1 The Path Forward

Brian Black shared a presentation titled, "The Path Forward" commenting on:

- The Métis inherent right of self-government
 - Statement of Prime Purpose which has guided the MNO in the past three decades and will define guiding principles going forward
- Advancement of Métis Rights
 - MNO has successfully advanced Métis rights over the last 30 years, including on many self-government fronts (e.g., the Powley case, harvesting rights, etc.)
- Advancement of self-government

- The Framework Agreement signed for advancing reconciliation in 2017 and subsequent Agreement signed in 2019; an update to the Agreement signed in 2023
- The updated Agreement provided a clearer understanding between the MNO and Canada
- Next steps
 - Manage Treaty implementation requirements
 - MNO Self-Government Engagement Plan
 - Engage citizens across every region to education and inform all MNO citizens
- The five streams toward self-government:
 - Understanding Métis self-government
 - Embracing Métis values and guiding principles
 - Mapping our future
 - Drafting our Constitution
 - Other matters.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- As engagement continues to occur, Community Councils are encouraged to include youth and elders in the conversation to ensure their voices are heard; there are ongoing discussions with Youth Coordinators on how best to involve youth in this process
- All MNO citizens, including those who reside out of the province, have been mailed a survey requesting information on how they would like to be engaged; times of virtual meetings are flexible, and meetings can be scheduled, as requested through the survey
- Development of informational pieces at all learning levels is in progress, to ensure everyone comprehends what is happening
- Those that have updates to their own contact information, or to notify that someone has passed away, should contact Registry.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 12:06 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m. Executive Senator Callaghan provided a blessing for the food. During the break, a pre-recorded video message update on the Prosperity Trust was played.

12. Revitalizing Our Stories, Histories, Alliances and Relationships

Councilor Mitch Case and Councilor Theresa Stenlund, Co-Provincial Secretaries of Rights, Intergovernmental Relations and Communications, shared a presentation titled, “Revitalizing our Stories, History, Alliances, and Relationships” commenting on:

- The resolution from the previous year’s AGA regarding Revitalizing our Stories, History, Alliances, and Relationships
- The pillars involved in this, including work that has been accomplished and is also ongoing, including:
 - Telling our stories
 - Research and publication of Métis history in Ontario
 - Building an Ontario Métis Educational Institute
 - External partners are being identified to assist securing funding for the Powley Institute
 - Creating a committee of advisors and academics to identify and coordinate research needs and opportunities
 - Rekindling and renewing our historic alliances and relationships with First Nations

- Letters sent to Ontario First Nations requesting dialogue
- Defending Métis youth, families and communities
 - Correcting the record and countering misinformation
- New resources, including the website, “Ontario Métis Facts”, which has primary and secondary source documents
 - Information is pushed out in a targeted manner (E.g., information on Penetanguishene is the focus this week as it is where the AGA is being held this week)
- History of Métis petition actions and resistance in Ontario
- Spotlight of Métis political action and resistance in Ontario
- Métis culture in Ontario (e.g., jigging, fishing, retiring to Mattawa, women harvesters in Abitibi Inland, and maple sugaring in Sault Ste. Marie)
- The work of the MNC Expert Panel and recognition that regardless of their recommendations, the MNO will continue to represent and support Métis communities in Ontario.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- Any broken links to the Ontario Métis Facts website will be reported to the IT Branch and rectified
- The Registrar can assist with deciphering writing on a 150-year-old document
- The education team has begun dialogue with the school districts to ensure that information from Ontario Métis Facts is shared
- Last year, the education team released a cardboard book on Louis Riel and Powley, to assist with building children’s knowledge.

12.1 The Upper Great Lakes Métis Communities

Councilor Mitch Case and Zac Thiffault, MNO Legal Counsel and Director of Métis Rights, Claims, and Litigation, shared a presentation titled, “The Upper Great Lakes Métis Communities” commenting on:

- Emergence of Métis communities in the Upper Great Lakes
 - Beyond colonial documents, there are oral stories where it is known that there were Métis communities in the Upper Great Lakes, and they moved westward
- Layers of a regional Métis community
 - There are maps which illustrate the kinship ties in the Upper Great Lakes
 - Common ways of life, from fishing to the way Métis dress
- Legal realities in recognizing the Upper Great Lakes Métis
 - Historic Métis petitions
 - Historic Métis political pushback
 - The impact of the *Powley* decision
- The Upper Great Lakes communities/families
 - Georgian Bay
 - War of 1812, Métis chose to come to Penetanguishene or stay on Drummond Island as it became America
 - Key families: the Solomon Family, Michael Labatte, Hyppolite Brissette, and Dusome-Clermont Family
 - Killarney
 - Roots are also in Drummond Island
 - Key families: the De Lamorandiere Family and Corbiere-Nolin Family
 -

- Northern Lake Superior
 - Can trace most Métis communities to the early days of the fur trade
 - Strong history of legendary gatherings
 - Key figure: Paddy McGuire
- Sault Ste. Marie
 - Fishing a key component of life
 - The *Powley* case was won due to the strength of the community in Sault Ste. Marie
 - Key families: the Nolin Family, Sayer Family, Boissonneau Family, and Roussains Family
- MNC Expert Panel
 - MNO was given the opportunity to submit written briefs on the history of the communities; in 37 days, a 300-page document, synthesizing 100,000 pages was compiled the tells the stories of the four communities that make up the Upper Great Lakes
 - A different process was completed for northwest Ontario communities.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 3:09 p.m. and reconvened at 3:36 p.m.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Rowlinson confirmed quorum was present, with a total of 232 voting delegates in attendance.

13. ORDINARY / NON-SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions Committee Chair LePage reported that two Priority Ordinary Resolutions were reviewed by the Committee and #OR-AGA-01 and #OR-AGA-02 were deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002.

Point of Order

In response to a Point of Order regarding concerns that there would be consideration of two Ordinary Resolutions outside of the scheduled timeframe for Ordinary Resolutions, Chair Rowlinson advised that it was confirmed on Day 1 of the AGA that two Ordinary Resolutions would be considered on Day 2 of the AGA.

13.1 Ordinary Resolution #OR-01: MNO Rules of Order

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- This resolution being the first occurrence of the MNO Rules of Order being ratified by the AGA
- Concern regarding the Rules of Order.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED (AGA240817-03)

(172 in favour; 61 opposed; 32 abstentions)

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

During discussion, comments offered in support of the resolution included: the resolution been a long time coming and will demonstrate that the MNO is a professional body; this provides much needed accountability, and it is an area that the Nation struggles with; there is a lot of lateral violence within Community Councils, and this is a measure that will help address that; this is important legislation that would protect two-spirit, women, youth, and the most vulnerable people; this will ensure protection of everyone, and will ensure that people are not targeted just because they may be unpopular; this is how good governance is built; and this will be an important governance tool.

Comments offered in opposition to the resolution included: concerns that the Code will be used as a punitive measure against those who are not considered a “favourite” and that this will put a target on some peoples backs; lack of clarity on what the next steps are if evaluations are deemed poor; as people who are self-governed, concerns that it is giving control to a body outside

the community to be a judge and jury for that community and that this will be weaponized against those that are unpopular.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Rowlinson confirmed quorum was present, with a total of 265 voting delegates in attendance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1) Work with the PCMNO Chair and Vice-Chair to prepare any materials required in order to present the Code to the 2024 MNO Annual General Assembly (“**AGA**”), with the goal of having it be adopted by the AGA;

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

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

RESOLVED (AGA240817-04)

(215 in favour; 53 opposed; 5 abstentions)

14. SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions Committee Chair LePage reported that of the five Special Business Resolutions (SBRs) reviewed by the Committee, one resolution #24-AGA-01 was withdrawn, two were deemed to be compliant and two were deemed non-compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002. Special Business Resolutions require a 2/3 majority to be ratified.

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

SBR#24-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: this seeks to fill a missing gap within the existing process; this allows someone who has been removed to reflect on their decisions; it is a privilege to be on Council and everyone should represent their positions with honesty, integrity, and transparency; it is a vigorous process to put together a complaint, and it must be substantiated, which provides a timeline that will allow that person the opportunity to educate themselves and to be ready if they decide to run again.

Comments offered in opposition to the resolution included: this will ensure the continuance of lateral violence; the resolution will introduce a dangerous precedent which allows for subjective judgement, personal bias, and individual agendas over the collective will; the intent is redundant as clause "f" already addresses wrongdoing; this will erode the foundation of democracy as our strength lies in the voice of the many, not the opinion of the few; concern regarding how this will be utilized and using it to remove those that are unpopular;

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

- Special Resolutions are unable to be amended
- There is an amendment process that individual Community Councils could use to opt out of this policy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DEFEATED

(144 in favour; 98 opposed; 17 abstentions)

14.2 Special Business Resolution #23-AGA-04: Special Resolution on Awareness of the MNO Harvesting Policy and Métis Harvesting Practices

SBR#24-AGA-04 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002 and was brought to the floor to be voted on.

President Froh shared the importance of developing tools to support our harvesters, including training opportunities.

As the mover of the resolution were not present, the motion was not put forward for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rowlinson thanked delegates for their participation during Day Two of the Assembly. The 31st MNO AGA, held August 16-18, 2024, adjourned on Day Two – August 17, 2024, at 4:50 p.m.

DAY THREE – August 18, 2024

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

15. MNO 2023 AGA Reconvenes

The 2024 MNO AGA held August 16-18, 2024, reconvened on Day Three – August 18, 2024, at 9:08 a.m.

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

PRE-RECORDED WELCOMING REMARKS FROM DIGNITARIES⁵

Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities

The Honourable Jill Dunlop shared that it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to address the 31st Assembly of the MNO AGA. The Honourable Jill Dunlop thanked the MNO for their hard work to help Métis learners succeed and build communities, noting one of the shared goals is to provide meaningful educational, and economic opportunities available for all Indigenous students across the province. The work of the MNO was recognized, including the Infinite Reach Program that provides mentorship to Métis learners, helping build student leadership skills, raising awareness of their history and culture, and supporting them on their learning journeys. Best wishes for the AGA were extended.

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health for Ontario

The Honourable Sylvia Jones thanked President Froh for her continued leadership and advocacy in coordinating programs and services across communities. It was noted that the AGA is a time for reflection and to set priorities. The navigation of healthcare in the province has been difficult, and the government is not accepting the status quo, and as such, record investments are being made into the healthcare system. Bold and innovative action is being taken, and the government is working closely with the MNO to provide high quality care to Indigenous peoples. As part of the government support, \$225,000 is being invested in MNO for Métis-specific cultural training to help health organizations to provide more culturally appropriate care.

Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General for Ontario

The Honourable Doug Downey extended greetings and acknowledged the changes that the MNO has made. Congratulations were offered to the PCMNO, and Youth and Council electees. It was noted that the AGA is a time to reflect and celebrate the MNO's accomplishments. The Ontario government is continuing to work to ensure that the justice system is responsive and the MNO shares a common goal to improve the experience of individuals involved in the justice system. The Métis Nation does this by offering programs including ones that improve legal literacy. It is important to step forward, but we must all strive to do more.

⁵ A video recording of remarks from dignitaries is available at: [enter link](#)

Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party

Bonnie Crombie extended greetings and noted that the AGA is an example of self-government in action, providing an opportunity to conduct business, while also celebrating accomplishments. Bonnie Crombie noted that if elected as Premier, she would make it her mission to work with the MNO to build houses, deliver wraparound culturally appropriate services, and world class education. The Ontario Liberals are committed to work in partnership with the MNO. Best wishes for a successful AGA were extended.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Rowlinson confirmed quorum was present with a total of 231 delegates in attendance and announced that, given the number of resolutions to consider, a three-minute time limit for speakers would be implemented.

16. ORDINARY / NON-SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions Committee Chair LePage, announced that the Resolutions Committee received and reviewed eight Ordinary Business (non-Special Business) Resolutions. One was withdrawn and the Committee determined that seven were deemed compliant.

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

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 this addresses a missing gap and could be a benefit for healthcare services.

Point of Order

In response to a Point of Order regarding the inability to ensure a quorum was being maintained due to delegates coming into and out of the tent, Chair Rowlinson confirmed that all voting would take place by secret vote.

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED (AGA240818-01)

(230 in favour; 9 opposed; 4 abstentions)

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

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: this will allow for the Two Spirit+ Council to reach out to more people; it is a boon to the MNO to be able to identify citizens; this resolution enforces Métis history, and emphasizes that two-spirit people are here, have a right to be here, and their rights are not shut down; and this will allow for two-spirit people to feel themselves being represented.

Point of Order

In response to a Point of Order regarding whether non-citizens were permitted to be in the room, Chair Rowlinson confirmed that non-citizens were permitted, and that it was previously requested that they not be due to lack of space.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED (AGA240818-02)

(203 in favour; 37 opposed; 9 abstentions)

17.3 Ordinary Resolution #OR-05: Mobility Accessibility Committee

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: Métis are a relational based people, and this is incredibly important work; and, request that the motion remove the word "Mobility" before "Accessibility Committee" as disabilities are not only physical.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED (AGA240818-03)

(247 in favour; 5 opposed)

17.4 Ordinary Resolution #OR-06: Making French and Bilingualism More Prominent in MNO Communications and Services

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

Secretary-Treasurer Young advised that a similar motion was passed at a previous AGA, and it is in the record of decisions. Part of the reason it was not actioned was due to lack of funds. There is funding set aside in the self-government portfolio for translation services.

During discussion, comments offered in support for the resolution included: this needs to be brought forward again for the benefit of all the MNO, for communications to be bilingual.

It was MOVED (Basile Dorian) and SECONDED (Jacques Piquotte)

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

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

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

RESOLVED (AGA240818-04)

(185 in favour; 31 opposed; 29 abstentions)

17.5 Ordinary Resolution #OR-07: Creation of a War of 1812 MNO Story Project

As the mover and seconder were present, this resolution was brought to the floor for consideration. During discussion comments offered included:

During discussion, comments offered in support for the resolution included: this will build on the work that was done yesterday to move our stories forward; it is important and necessary to bring out the stories and history; this fits into the work that is being done more broadly already; this will rectify the misguided work that the MNO completed 12 years ago which positioned Métis as loyal subjects to the Crown versus allies; and request to include “Drummond Island” in the motion with the other communities listed.

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

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

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

RESOLVED (AGA240818-05)

(224 in favour; 16 opposed; 3 abstentions)

17.6 Ordinary Resolution #OR-09: Resolution for the Métis Youth and Elders Conference

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: this will be beneficial in connecting Métis youth and Elders as they have much to learn from each other; the stories of Elders need to be recorded, as they will not be here forever; there are so many youth that are seekers of knowledge and so many Elders that are keepers of knowledge; this is not only important for youth, but also for Elders; request to change “planned in conjunction” to “planned in collaboration”; request to change “Senators” to “Senators/Elders (inclusive of Two-Spirit Elders)”.

In response to a question, it was noted that youth are those considered 16 years of age and older. Those that are younger may sometimes be included in events/conferences if they are accompanied by a chaperone.

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

Whereas:

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

Be it resolved that:

- MNO investigates the possibility of holding a Métis Youth and Elders Conference planned in collaboration with the MNOYC, Senators/Elders (inclusive of Two-Spirit Elders).

Be it further resolved that this conference:

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

RESOLVED (AGA230820-06)

(206 in favour; 26 opposed; 6 abstentions)

17.7 Ordinary Resolution #OR-10: MNO Human Resource Policy

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

The mover of the resolution advised that they had been informed that a parallel process to the proposed resolution was underway, and therefore requested withdrawal of the motion.

Delegates were informed that the MNO Secretariat will report back at the next AGA on what is being done to recruit and retain Métis employees.

MNO 2024 AGA – BUSINESS MEETING CONCLUDES

Chair Rowlinson thanked citizens for their participation in the 2024 AGA and extended appreciation to the MNO staff, for their work in supporting a successful Assembly. Region 7 Council members passed the torch to Region 4 Council members, as the 2025 host community.

President Froh, on behalf of the Executive and the PCMNO, expressed gratitude for everyone's presence, participation, and dedication. President Froh noted that it has been an incredible five days of celebrating successes, and discussing challenges and how to overcome them. It has also been a time to share Métis stories and histories, and a reminder of Métis perseverance. A central part of every government is its assemblies, and the Métis have a long history of that.

President Froh extended appreciation to all those that contributed to the AGA's success including the Education team for Camp AGA, Regional Managers, the Registrar and team, Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Operating Officer, first aid attendants, Great Lakes Advisory Group, Arts Council and artists, Resolutions Committee, Colour Guard, fiddler, former President Tony Belcourt, Senators, leadership, and citizens. President Froh extended a special thank you to Jennifer Pauzé and the AGA Committee for all their work, and to the Chair and Vice-Chair for keeping the meeting on track.

President Froh discussed the importance of Ontario Métis Facts, and the launch of the Powley Institute, which are significant steps forward in preserving Métis history. The AGA has been a time to celebrate successes, provide for good debate, and a time to use our voices in an inclusive and welcoming way. It has also been a time to reconnect with friends and family, meet new friends, sing and dance, and celebrate stories and culture. Support was expressed for continuing to work together to build a stronger MNO.

CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

The 31st Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly, held August 16-18, 2024, concluded on Day 3 – August 18, 2024, at 10:56 a.m. Executive Senator Gravelle offered a Closing Prayer.

* * * *

This is a true and correct copy of the 31st Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 16-18, 2024, 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
MII	Métis Infinity Investments
MMF	Manitoba Metis Federation
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
PCMNO	Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario

List of Reference Materials

The following reference materials were available to participants at the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 16-18, 2024, and were posted online at www.mnoaga.ca:

- Draft Agenda for the August 16-18, 2024, 31st Annual General Assembly
- AGA Sponsors
- Welcome Letter from the PCMNO
- Administrative Reports:
 - o Region 1
 - o Region 2
 - o Region 3
 - o Region 4

- Region 5 (video)
- Region 6
- Region 7
- Region 8
- Region 9
- PCMNO Youth Representative
- PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative
- MNO Reference Documents:
 - MNO Statement of Prime Purpose
 - MNO Bylaws
 - MNO Standing Rules (Draft)
 - Métis Rules of Order (Draft)
 - Code of Conduct (Draft)
 - Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy (Draft)
 - MNO Policy 2021-001 re Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services
 - MNO Policy 2022-002 re Verification of MNO Citizenship File Status and to Other Governments and Third-Party Institutions
- Economic Development:
 - MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law
 - MNO Policy on Local and Regional Opportunities on Business Opportunities
- AGA Business:
 - MNO AGA 2023 Special Business Resolutions
 - MNO AGA 2023 Draft Minutes
 - MNO AGA 2022 and 2023 Record of Resolutions and Actions
 - Policy #2011-002, Process for Conducting Special Business at a General Assembly
- MNO Cultural Commission (MNOCC):
 - MNOCC By-Laws
- MNO Advisory Councils and Working Groups:
 - MNO Women's Council
 - Two Spirit Working Group
- Economic Updates:
 - Métis Voyageur Development Fund
 - Métis Infinity Investments