



2025 MINUTES

Minutes of the 32nd Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) held August 15-17, 2025, at 65 Foster Drive, Sault Ste. Marie Ontario, prepared by Jana Anderson, Recording Secretary.

Recording Secretary Note: The order of the Agenda varied during the meeting. Items are presented in these minutes in the order in which they were considered and are numbered in the order presented on the approved Agenda.

DAY ONE – August 15, 2025

MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY – OPENING CEREMONIES

The 32nd MNO AGA commenced with the Colour Guard led by Métis Fiddler Alicia Blore. The Grand Entry and Procession of dignitaries included former MNO President Tony Belcourt, Métis Veterans, Senators, and members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO).

ANTHEMS

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

OPENING REMARKS - Chair

Sharon Cadeau, Chair called the AGA to order at 9:06 a.m. and welcomed delegates.

OPENING PRAYER/TRADITIONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Executive Senator Callaghan offered opening comments and an Opening Prayer.

Senator Liliane Ethier acknowledged the ancestral lands of the Anishinabek Peoples of Baw-waa-ting, including the Garden River and Batchewana First Nations, and Sault Ste. Marie Métis people on which the meeting was taking place.

Chair Cadeau thanked Executive Senator Callaghan for the Opening Prayer, Senator Ethier for the land acknowledgment and welcomed delegates. Chair Cadeau invited the meeting to offer a moment of silence, and an in-memoriam dedication video was played to recognize those who have passed since the last Assembly.

Chair Cadeau reviewed the safety protocols and logistics in place throughout the AGA. The Assembly was referred to the AGA meeting package online (www.mnoaga.ca) and provided on table to delegates, which contains detailed information of the proceedings over the weekend.

INTRODUCTION OF PCMNO

Margaret Froh, President, welcomed delegates to the 32nd MNO AGA and extended greetings on behalf of the PCMNO. A video was played introducing each of the PCMNO members.

INTRODUCTION OF AGA HOST PRESIDENT/COMMUNITIES

Steven Gjos, President, Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council

Rolly Blanchette, President of North Channel Métis Council

On behalf of the host Councils, President Gjos welcomed delegates and acknowledged the historic sacred ground on which the Assembly was meeting.

Mitch Case, PCMNO Councilor, Region 4

Councilor Case thanked the host Regional Councils for their efforts in organizing the AGA and commented on the teapot gifts being given to speakers which showcase the history of the Métis River Lots. Delegates were encouraged to participate in the fundraiser taking place at the Assembly to help build a monument at the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

WELCOMING REMARKS FROM DIGNITARIES AND GUESTS

President Froh thanked Executive Senator Callaghan for the Opening Prayer, Senator Ethier for the land acknowledgment, and the Colour Guard and Métis Fiddler Alicia Blore who led the Grand Entry. President Froh joined delegates in thanking the Powley family present at the Assembly and commented on the launch of the Powley Institute set for the evening of August 17, 2025.

After extending greetings and appreciation at the invitation to attend the 2025 AGA, highlights of comments from dignitaries and guests included:

MP Jamie Schmale, Member Of Parliament (MP), Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, extended greetings on behalf of the Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, Pierre Poilievre, and acknowledged the importance of telling the stories of Métis history, communities and traditions and inventiveness, determination, and strength of Métis, to build futures which are intertwined.

Patricia DeGuire, Chief Commissioner, Ontario Human Rights Commission, commented on collective efforts to bring quality, dignity and respect for Indigenous peoples across Ontario; the Commission's commitment to developing and strengthening relationships with Métis, First Nation and Inuit and urban Indigenous communities to advance truth and reconciliation and being honoured to work with the Métis Nation to support Indigenous reconciliation. The MNO's advice will be instrumental in addressing systemic discrimination in education, health, child welfare, and criminal justice.

Kaitlyn Neveu, Indigenous Policy and Process Renewal Advisor, Anishinaabe E-Wiidookaaged, commented on her role at the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the City's responsibility to ensure indigenous voices are included and respected in their decisions. The City and MNO are moving forward with open hearts and minds to build a relationship that will focus on care, honesty, and respect.

Secretary Rebecca Lavallee, Secretary of Youth, Sport and Gender Equity for Otipemisiwak Métis Government, acknowledged attendance at the MNO for the youth conference and AGA and commented on growing up being immersed in Métis and that the word "community" resonates as Métis best understand their identity when they are gathered at the table and sharing laughter.

Chair Cadeau confirmed that during the AGA youth representatives would be sharing stories with the Assembly.

PRE-RECORDED WELCOMING REMARKS FROM DIGNITARIES

Highlights of the pre-recorded remarks from dignitaries included the following:

Andrea Sandmaier, President, Otipemisiwak Métis Government noted this period in time is what Métis have been dreaming of, to be self-determining and rooted in the will of people. President Sandmaier commented on the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's ratification of its Constitution, extended congratulations to the MNO

on their accomplishments over the year and confirmed the Otipemisiwak Métis Government looks forward to continuing to work with the MNO.

Rebecca Alty, MP for Northwest Territories and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations commented on fond memories of attending the MNO AGA, Sault Ste. Marie significant Métis culture and acknowledged the Sault Ste. Marie Council's establishment of the Métis Heritage Centre. The importance of continuing to share stories and culture and having Métis citizens tell their stories and share the culture through workshops, training programs and camps was acknowledged.

Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party acknowledged the MNO's role in building a path forward filled with prosperity which children grow up in knowing the value of the MNO and their Métis culture. Bonnie Crombie thanked the MNO for continued contributions and work in Ontario.

Cory McGuire-Cyrette, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) reflecting on another year of great work by the MNO and commented on the MNO and ONWA's collaborative efforts to address issues that impact communities. Cory McGuire-Cyrette shared her background growing up Métis, and whose grandfather is a founding member of the movement. Comments were offered on the efforts made to fight for fishing and hunting rights and understanding the value of protecting the earth.

Terry Goodtrack, President and CEO, Aboriginal Financial Officers Association (AFOA) provided an overview of AFOA's history and the organization's current structure and focus on providing certified educational programs in areas of management, finance, governance and human resources management. Terry Goodtrack reminded the Assembly that the AFOA's annual conference is scheduled February 10-12, 2026, in Montreal and of two new program offerings: a Certified Emerging Indigenous Leadership Program for youth and an Executive Program through Harvard business school launching in May 2026. It was noted that the AFOA Canada looks forward to collaborating with the MNO in the coming years.

Matthew Shoemaker, Mayor of Sault Ste. Marie extended greetings on behalf of the City and commented on the MNO's efforts to ensure Métis rights are front and centre. The Mayor noted that Sault Ste. Marie is a significant historical place for Métis, and he thanked the MNO for holding the AGA in Sault Ste. Marie.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 10:22 a.m. and reconvened at 10:41 a.m. Following the break the remaining pre-recorded videos from the PCMNO members were played.

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS AND YEAR IN REVIEW

Margaret Froh, President, MNO

President Froh welcomed delegates, guests, past and present Métis leadership, staff and citizens and thanked the fiddler, Veterans Colour Guard, and Senators for the Opening Prayer and Land Acknowledgement. President Froh thanked the leadership and citizens of Region 4 for hosting the AGA and acknowledged special guests, allies, partners and Sault Ste. Marie leadership and representatives present at the Assembly.

President Froh acknowledged the significance of the AGA and encouraged delegates to reflect on their history and the fact that the historic community of Sault Ste. Marie, hosting the AGA, was once home to a thriving Métis River Lots settlement. It was a place where Métis governed themselves, met "in council" and determined to defend their lands and way of life by taking up arms with the Anishinabek in the 1849 Mica Bay Incident. It is land that the Treaty Commissioner Robinson confirmed Métis had "full and free possession of" in the 1850 treaty negotiations. It is land that Métis were subsequently pushed off and which the Crown failed to fulfill their promise and subjected the River Lots to land speculation by settlers and Crown officials.

It was noted that the MNO's AGA is an opportunity to celebrate who Métis people are, the culture and way of life and delegates were encouraged to reflect on how far they have come. The theme of the 32nd MNO AGA is "Telling Our Stories". Métis people have always been storytellers, and it is important to continue telling the stories of resilience, resistance, struggle and survival. Each story shapes and guides Métis on the path to modern day self-determination. The lands and waters of Sault Ste. Marie, on both sides of the river, have long been part of Métis history. Sault Ste. Marie is the birthplace one of the oldest and best-known historic Métis River Lot settlements recognized. It is a place where Métis families raised children, built homes and churches and fished the waters, and where the connection to the land, family and trade was born.

President Froh shared that the region tells a multi-generational story of resistance and rights, from the 1849 Mica Bay Incident to the place where Steve and Roddy Powley fought for their community's harvesting rights. The Powley harvesting rights case, decided in Sault Ste. Marie, ultimately affirmed by a unanimous Supreme Court decision in 2003, declared that despite generations of settler governments ignoring the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community, Métis had endured as a distinct Indigenous community, and their rights are protected by the Constitution.

The President invited delegates to attend the Soiree in the Soo, set for the evening of August 15, 2025, which will not only be a celebration of music and stories, it will also mark the official launch of the Powley Institute for Métis Laws and Governance. The Powley Institute will be a place of learning and leadership where Métis people can engage in research, legal advocacy and dialogue rooted in Métis law, history and experience.

Delegates were reminded of a recent significant turning point – the release of the Métis National Council's Expert Panel Report, which affirmed the seven historic Métis communities in Ontario. This work matters, because once again, qualified persons tasked with objectively looking at the Métis communities in Ontario clearly saw the facts of history. It matters to Métis families who petitioned for scrip in Moose Factory in 1905, to Métis in Sault Ste. Marie who shut down an unauthorized mine at Mica Bay, to Métis who kept each other healthy when disease broke out in Penetanguishene, to Métis in Northwestern Ontario who signed the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty No. 3 one hundred and fifty years ago in September 2025.

President Froh commented on the change and challenges faced over the past year and other important milestones and highlighted some of the accomplishments over the past year with the federal and provincial governments by each of the Regions.

The President welcomed and introduced MNO's new Chief Executive Officer, Dale LeClair, acknowledged staff and directors working in MNO Branches and highlighted activities and accomplishments over the past year by the Captains of the Hunt and Advisory Councils. The President congratulated the 40 Métis citizens awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal this past year. Delegates were encouraged to continue celebrating the milestones, and moving forward with resilience, courage, and collaboration; to tell stories and honour the past while inspiring future generations; and build a future for the Métis Nation rooted in pride, legal recognition, strength and purpose.

OUR MÉTIS GOVERNMENT PUBLIC SERVICE: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Dale LeClair, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Métis Nation Ontario

Dale LeClair, CEO, recognized Senators, Elders, future leaders, and joined delegates in acknowledging the Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Operating Officer and thanking MNO staff for their support with organizing the AGA and continued support to the organization. The CEO referred delegates to the distributed Annual Report and commented on the MNO's growth and achievements over the past year and the goal to continue building on past successes.

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

Jennifer St. Germain, CSO, expressed pride in being a Métis citizen of the MNO and being able to support the Lands, Environment and Consultations, Community Relations, Self-Government, and Communications Branches of the MNO. The CSO noted that, with the support of Provincial Secretaries, significant achievements have been made in the areas of economic development, and it is important to continue standing together and push back on the misinformation circulating in the media. The CSO encouraged delegates to consider a career in the Métis public service.

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

Joanne Meyer, COO, thanked staff and Community Councils and highlighted activities and accomplishments made by the Education and Training, Housing and Community Wellbeing Branches. It was noted that the Métis school program will be launched in the fall 2025 and the MNO Healing and Wellness Branch will be launching a program to support vulnerable citizens and will be providing access to health-related supports and a virtual care program.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 12:02 p.m. with Senator Donna Grenier providing a blessing for the food. The meeting reconvened at 1:21 p.m.

OVERVIEW OF AGA PROCEDURES

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 in relation to that Special Resolution.

Chair Cadeau reviewed the Métis Rules of Order, AGA Standing Rules and decorum for the meeting, and confirmed that the Chair would intervene should any rules be violated. Information was provided on the live Facebook feed during the business portion of the Assembly.

MNO 2024 AGA BUSINESS MEETING COMMENCES

1. Establish Quorum

Chair Cadeau reported that there were 409 registered voting delegates in attendance at 12:00 p.m. on Day 1 of the Assembly, which set quorum at 205.

2. Meeting Begins and Voting Technology Explained

Chair Cadeau reviewed the electronic voting system using the “clickers” provided, allowing for participation and electronic voting throughout the Assembly.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Cadeau confirmed quorum was present, with a total of 223 voting delegates in attendance.

3. Adoption of the 2025 Annual General Assembly Agenda

It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young) and SECONDED (Evan Accettola)

That the Agenda for the 32nd Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly, scheduled August 15-17, 2025, be adopted as amended to defer consideration of the Minutes and business arising.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA250815-01)

4. 2024 AGA Minutes

Consideration of the 2024 AGA Minutes was deferred to Day 2 of the AGA.

5. Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

Chair Cadeau reviewed the process for nominating and appointing the Resolutions Committee. The floor was opened for nominations, and seven candidates were nominated. The floor was closed for nominations.

Chair Cadeau recognized the following nominees for the 2025 MNO Resolutions Committee:

- Luke Breault
- Executive Senator Steven Callaghan
- Kim Mantha
- Josh Charpentier
- Stephanie Bergman
- Ron LePage
- Robert Baskey.

All nominees accepted their nomination. Nominees were then invited to speak to their interest in the serving on the Committee and their background. Chair Cadeau invited citizens to vote for up to three of the seven nominees indicated.

Announcement of the 2025 Resolutions Committee

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

- Executive Senator Steven Callaghan
- Kim Mantha
- Stephanie Bergman.

Youth “Telling Our Story”

Celeste Bond, Region 4 Youth Representative, shared a story about maple sugaring on Metis River Lots.

Sponsors Acknowledged

The AGA sponsors were recognized for their contributions.

6. PCMNO Reports

Chair Cadeau referred delegates to the PCMNO Administrative reports posted on the [MNO Website](#).

7. Provincial Secretaries Report

Pre-recorded video messages from the following Provincial Secretaries were shared:

- PCMNO Region 4 Councilor Mitch Case and Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund: Co-Provincial Secretaries for Métis Rights, Inter-Governmental Relations & Communications
- PCMNO Region 3 Councilor Jacques Picotte: Provincial Secretary for Environment, Emergency Preparedness & Climate Change
- Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau and PCMNO Region 7 Councilor Greg Garratt: Secretary and Associate Secretary for Housing & Infrastructure

- PCMNO Region 9 Councilor Kathleen Anderson: Provincial Secretary for Economic Development and Government Infrastructure and Associate Secretary for Finance and Records.

8. Advisory Councils

Pre-recorded video messages from the following Advisory Councils were shared:

- MNO Youth Council (MNOYC)
- MNO Two-Spirit+ Working Group
- MNO Women’s Council (MNOWC)
- MNO Veterans’ Council (MNOVC)
- MNO Senators
- Captains of the Hunt (COTH).

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 2:36 p.m. and reconvened at 2:52 p.m.

9. Presentations for: Advancing Economic Reconciliation, Achieving Results

9.1 Prosperity Trust Video Update

A pre-recorded video from TE Wealth providing an operational update on the Prosperity Trust, fiscal year results, asset mix of the Trust, performance benchmarks, Q2 2025 performance, and progression of the Trust Fund up June 25, 2025, was played. Additional information was provided on the investment objectives of the Trust, 2025 market highlights, value stocks versus growth stocks, and looking ahead.

A pre-recorded video from the Canada Trust Company providing information on the Prosperity Trust timeline, opening and current values of the Trust, the assets of the Prosperity Trust, the beneficiaries, corporate trustee, financial advisor, accountant and investment managers, financial update to July 24, 2025, distribution, and purpose of prosperity and economic development was played.

Resolutions Committee Announcement

Executive Senator Callaghan, Resolutions Committee member, advised that Ordinary (Non-Special Business Resolutions would be accepted until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 16, 2025, and that resolutions, in MW Word, could be emailed to: steven@metisnation.org.

9.3 Métis Infinity Investments (MII)

Art Bennett, Board Director, and Steven Scott, Secretary, MII, reviewed a presentation titled, “Métis Infinity Investments” providing an overview of the MII, its new Board of Directors recently appointed in March 2025, assessment of investments underway, and current activities.

9.2 Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF)

Paul DeVillers and Steven Morse, MVDF, introduced MVDF Board of Directors present, reviewed a presentation titled, “A Report to the Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario, Métis Voyageur Development Fund” offering information on the profile of MVDF and MNO as its sole shareholder, what MVDF offers Métis entrepreneurs, fiscal year 2024/2025 results, total financing over the last five and last 10 years, net assets, and total revenues and expenditures from 2014/15 through to 2024/2025.

Youth “Telling Our Story”

Kaitlyn Anderson, Region 9 Youth, shared a story about history of Métis women and the skill and resourcefulness of Métis women making Mackinaw jackets.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cadeau thanked delegates for their participation during Day One of the Assembly. The 32nd MNO AGA, held August 15-17, 2025, adjourned on Day One – August 15, 2025, at 3:50 p.m.

DAY TWO – August 16, 2025

MNO 2025 AGA BUSINESS MEETING RECONVENED

Chair Cadeau reconvened the 2025 MNO AGA held August 15-17, 2025, on Day Two – August 16, 2025, at 9:06 a.m. and provided an overview of the safety protocols. President Froh welcomed participants and recalled discussions, presentations, and activities from Day One.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Cadeau confirmed a quorum was present, with a total of 207 voting delegates in attendance and reminded delegates of the A Standing Rules of Order.

Point of Order

In response to a point of order, it was noted that the Chair would confirm quorum in advance of each resolution.

4. 2024 AGA Minutes

4.1 Adoption of the 2024 AGA Minutes

Jo Anne Young, Secretary-Treasurer, reviewed the resolutions in the draft minutes of the MNO 2024 AGA¹, and confirmed that printed copies were available at the AGA, and were also posted on the MNO AGA website.

It was MOVED (Marc Mantha) and SECONDED (Andy Dufrane)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 16-18, 2024, be adopted as presented.

RESOLVED (AGA250816-01)

(206 in favour; 11 opposed; 4 abstentions)

4.2 Business Arising from 2024 AGA Minutes

No items of business arising.

Youth “Telling Our Story”

Celeste Bond, Youth Representative, Region 4, shared a story about the Métis Village of French Town.

10. Financial Update

10.1 Secretary-Treasurer’s Update/Finance Report

Secretary-Treasurer Young reviewed a presentation titled, “AGA Presentation, August 16, 2025” reporting on financial activities over the past year, commenting on:

- The Secretariat Statement of Operations for the Year Ending March 31, 2025
- Year over Year Revenues and Expenses (fiscal years 2020-2021 to 2024-2025)

¹ The 2024 AGA Minutes and Record of Resolutions are posted on the MNO AGA [website](#).

- Secretariat 2024-2205 Revenues
- Secretariat 2024-2025 Expenditures (by program funding and by function).

During discussion, comments were offered on requests from a PCMNO member seeking the breakdown of legal firms/vendors, for professional fees by vendor for significant amount; information on the interest on \$5.7 million regions receive for economic development.

The Assembly was informed that legal expenses are separate from professional fees for various programs, and that salaries and benefits are under program delivery. A detailed breakdown of legal firms by vendor is not included in the financial statements, Finance Workshops are scheduled for the PCMNO where finance branch staff present the financials in detail and a breakdown of legal counsel and vendors over \$100,000 will be provided at the next PCMNO Finance Workshop.

10.2 Approval of 2024-2025 Audited Financial Statements

Benoit Groulx, Audit Partner, Baker Tilly LLP, reviewed the Independent Auditor's Report and confirmed that the statements fairly represented the financial position of the MNO Secretariat as of March 31, 2025. Benoit Groulx led the meeting in a review of the Audited Financial Statements for the year-ending March 31, 2025, commenting on the Balance Sheet, Statement of Net Assets; Statement of Operations; Statement of Cash Flow; Summary of Significant Accounting Policies; and Notes to the Financial Statements.

In response to questions, it was noted that one grant writer was hired to help Community Councils, and the MNO is looking to hire another writer. The costs for the grant writers are included in the current year budget and Councils can contact their Community Council Liaison to seek help with grant writing.

It was MOVED (Marc Mantha) and SECONDED (Andy Dufrane)

That the 32nd Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly adopt the Métis Nation of Ontario Audited Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2025, as presented.

RESOLVED (AGA250816-02)

(176 in favour; 24 opposed; 16 abstentions)

10.3 Appointment of the Auditor

It was MOVED (Steven Callaghan) and SECONDED (Kathleen Anderson)

That the 32nd 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, 2026.

RESOLVED (AGA250816-03)

(194 in favour; 12 opposed; 7 abstentions)

Telling Our Stories

Senator Cecile Coutu shared a song about being proud of being Métis.

Health Break

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

Resolutions Committee Announcement

Resolutions Committee Chair Stephanie Bergman reminded the delegation that Ordinary (Non-Special Business) Resolutions would be accepted until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 16, 2025.

11. **Presentation: Advancing Rights and Self-Government**

Brian Black, MNO Director of Self-Government, shared a presentation titled, “MNO Self-Government Building our Constitution” commenting on:

- Background and history of Métis in Ontario
- The Métis Communities in Ontario and Crown recognition for the seven historic rights-holder Métis communities in Ontario
- Who Métis are as a People
- Accomplishments in the area of Métis Rights and Self-Government
- Agreements recognizing MNO Métis rights
- Where the MNO is today
- The MNO-wide Self-Government Engagement Plan
- The draft Statement of Principles
- A “What We Heard Report” prepared, providing feedback from 18 information sessions and 30 workshops on the Statement of Principles (to be released at the AGA)
- Eight core themes in the What We Heard Report
- Overarching priorities identified during the engagement
- Next steps: fall engagement and developing a Constitution, laws, policies and other priorities
- The intention to use input and feedback from citizen engagement Streams 1-3 to guide the development of the MNO Constitution
- How to get involved to share views.

Alexandria Winterburn, Aird & Berlis LLP, shared a presentation titled, “Constitution” commenting on:

- What a Constitution is, why it is important, and what is included in it
- Chapter 9 of the MNO’s Self-Government Agreement
- The difference between a Constitution and a law
- Example of text in a Constitution versus text in a law
- Indigenous Constitutions and Self-Government
- Examples of other Indigenous Constitutions (Tlicho, Nisga’a, Heiltsuk and Métis Nation within Alberta)
- MNO’s Self-Government Negotiations with Canada
- Steps to reach MNO Treaty
- Timelines of other Métis Government Constitutions
- Why a Constitution is important for Métis in Ontario
- Next steps to consult with Métis citizens and communities about the Constitution and following the conclusion of the engagement, to have all citizens vote on whether to adopt the Constitution.

In response to a question, it was noted that the voting/ratification process to approve the Constitution has not yet been decided.

Telling Our Stories

Sebastain Koprach, Region 7 Youth Representative, shared a story about mail carrier, Louie Veron.

12. **Presentation: Revitalizing Our Stories**

Zac Thiffault, MNO in house legal counsel, and President Froh shared a presentation titled, “Revitalizing our Stories, History, Alliances, and Relationships” commenting on:

- The resolution passed at MNO's 30th AGA to adopt an all-government approach under multi-year education and information initiatives to address the gaps in stories and which defends communities, stories and histories
- Four pillars of the Revitalizing Our Stories, History, Alliances and Relationships
 - o Telling our Stories
 - o Building an Ontario Métis Educational institute (the Powley Institute in Sault Ste. Marie)
 - o Rekindling and renewing our historic alliances and relationships with First Nations
 - o Defending Métis Youth, families and communities
- Statistics and data for the Ontario Métis Facts promoting Métis history in Ontario.

Theresa Stenlund and Mitch Case, Co-Provincial Secretaries of Rights, Intergovernmental Relations and Communications continued the presentation providing an overview of:

- The Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (NWOMC) storytelling projects which include publishing books, a Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty 3 traveling exhibit, a regional website and upcoming work for an interpretive outdoor signs and video series
- The Huron-Superior Regional Métis Community led storytelling projects which include Métis Tours, the opening of the Sault Ste. Marie Heritage Centre, Métis River Lots permanent exhibit, documentaries, the Little River Lot play area, and upcoming work to publish books, stories, and create a documentary and market the River Lot Lego kits.

Jennifer St. Germain, CSO, announced that, in support of the “Telling Our Stories” pillar the book titled, “Rooted in Resilience” was published and advanced copies would be made available to all Community Council Presidents, Advisory Council Presidents and PCMNO.

Delegates viewed a video titled “Life on the Land” sharing information about harvesting and living life on the land, prepared by the NWOMC.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 12:21 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Senator Cecile Coutu provided a blessing for the food.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Cadeau confirmed a quorum was present, with a total of 210 voting delegates in attendance.

Noting that the potential for inclement weather, delegates supported moving consideration of Special Business Resolutions following Item 13.

13. Presentation: Advancing Education and Awareness – The Powley Institute Act

Councilor Mitch Case, CSO Jennifer St. Germain, and Emily Ellis, in house legal counsel, shared a presentation titled, “Powley Institute Building the Future of Métis Education, Research and Storytelling” commenting on:

- Background of the Powley Institute
 - o Métis-led education and cultural institute
 - o Proposed through the Powley Institute Act
 - o A place for community-driven learning, research and storytelling
- Why the Powley Institute matters
- Métis Institutes across Canada (Amelia Douglas Institute, Rupertsland Institute, Gabriel Dumont Institute and Louis Riel Institute)

- What the Institute will do
 - o Provide a familiar landmark for the local community of Sault Ste. Marie and provide a safe place for physical documents, digital storage and access to documents
- The proposed Powley Institute Act, its key features and sections within the legislation

16. ORDINARY / NON-SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

16.1 Ordinary Resolution #OR-01: Powley Institute Act

Resolutions Committee Chair Bergman, announced that the Resolutions Committee reviewed the Ordinary Business Resolution (Non-Special Business) Resolution regarding the “Powley Institute Act”, 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.

It was MOVED (Mitch Case) and SECONDED (Kathleen Anderson)

WHEREAS, there have been multiple resolutions throughout the history of the Metis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) calling for the creation of an educational institute, including:

- the 2017 Annual General Assembly (“AGA”) Resolution AGA17-14 that mandated the MNO “to explore the possibility of creating a Métis controlled, educational and publishing institute” with goals including the renewal and development of Métis culture through research, materials development, and distribution, and the design, development, and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services in French, English, and Michif;
- the 2024 AGA Resolution 230819-03 that identified building an Ontario Métis Educational Institute as a priority and directed the MNO to “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”; and
- the 2024 Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“PCMNO”) Resolution PC240613-03 that provided direction for MNO to “establish the Powley Institute as the MNO’s education arm to research, support and publish the histories of Métis communities in Ontario”;

AND WHEREAS, in June 2024, the PCMNO appointed Provincial Secretaries under section 15 of the MNO bylaws with authority to support and provide leadership in specific portfolios such as health, justice, Métis rights, education, etc.;

AND WHEREAS, and Mitchell Case was appointed the Provincial Secretary responsible to “lead the advancement and implementation of the Powley Institute” including, among other things, to develop and oversee the plan for incorporation of the Powley Institute, recruit staff, and develop policies, procedures, and plans to support its operation;

AND WHEREAS, Provincial Secretary Case along with MNO senior officials, MNO Education and Training staff, and legal counsel worked to draft a *Powley Institute Act* as an MNO law that provides for the establishment of the Powley Institute, consistent with the above AGA and PCMNO direction;

AND WHEREAS, in July 2025, the draft *Powley Institute Act* was shared with PCMNO and at an all-leadership townhall and all-citizen townhall to solicit comments and feedback from MNO leadership and citizens;

AND WHEREAS, and all comments and feedback from these discussions were considered and, where feasible and appropriate, incorporated into the final “***Powley Institute Act***” which is attached to this resolution as an appendix;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the 2025 MNO AGA hereby adopts the *Powley Institute Act*, as attached to this resolution, the full title of which is “*An Act to Establish an Educational, Research,*

Publishing, Library, Archival, and Cultural / Artistic Development Institute to Serve the Needs of the Métis Nation of Ontario, its Citizens, and the Historic Métis Communities it Represents.”

RESOLVED (AGA250816-04)

(236 in favour; 35 opposed; 4 abstentions)

Telling Our Stories

Madeline Sheriff, Region 2 Youth Representative, shared a story about the common way of life in the Métis River Lots.

15. SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions Committee Chair Bergman reminded delegates of the limited purpose and scope of the Resolutions Committee and reported that of the ten Special Business Resolutions (SBRs) reviewed by the Committee, eight 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.

The two business resolutions that did not comply include: Resolution #25-AGA-04, to amend Section 18 of MNO Registry Policy, Proof of historic Métis ancestry and #25-AGA-07, to create a Women’s Council on the PCMNO.

15.1 Special Business Resolution #25-AGA-01: Special Resolution to Remove Residency Requirement in the MNO Harvesting Policy

SBR#25-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: that it aligns the Harvesting Law with the Registry Policy while still maintaining the authority of the Captains of the Hunt (COH); it continues to support harvesters being able to harvest in their traditional territory.

It was MOVED (Margaret Froh) and SECONDED (Sandy Triskle)

WHEREAS as a result of colonization today many Métis live outside of their traditional territories, but remain accepted members of their Métis communities;

AND WHEREAS Canadian law as well as international and provincial borders have imposed artificial boundaries around the territories which Métis communities have lived, worked, and practiced their distinct way of life since the early 1800s;

AND WHEREAS these artificial boundaries and their corresponding restrictions do not reflect how Métis communities historically and contemporarily understand their traditional territories;

AND WHEREAS under the MNO’s existing policies, verified Métis rights-holders from Métis communities in Ontario are currently unable to harvest with their families and exercise their constitutionally-protected harvesting rights if they live outside Ontario on a permanent or temporary basis;

AND WHEREAS the 2019 MNO AGA repealed section 10 of the MNO Registry Policy that previously required applicants for MNO citizenship to provide proof of residency in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Harvesting Policy currently requires that an individual must be an MNO citizen, meet the requirements of the Powley test for the specific Métis community they seek to harvest within, and be “ordinarily resident in the Province of Ontario” in order to obtain an MNO Harvesters Card (also referred to as a Harvesters Certificate) (ss. 2.1(d),(f); 4.1);

AND WHEREAS the MNO Harvesting Policy (s. 4.2(b)) and the MNO Registry Policy (s. 26(a)) also currently require an MNO citizen to provide proof of ordinary residency when applying for a Harvesters Card;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Captains of the Hunt have the ability to limit or curtail harvesting activities if conservation issues arise within a given Métis community, the COTH recommend the removal of the ordinary resident requirement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2025 MNO AGA resolves that:

1. section 2.1(d) of the MNO Harvesting Policy be amended to read as follows: “MNO citizen” means a person who is interested in furthering the objects of the MNO and who is Métis within the definition adopted by the MNO in accordance with the Métis National Council, and:
 - i) ~~self identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis~~
 - ii) ~~is ordinarily resident in the Province of Ontario;~~
 - iii) ~~is not registered as an Indian under the Indian Act, as an Inuk on an Inuit registry, or on another Aboriginal registry whose objects are inconsistent with MNO’s; and~~
 - iv) ~~who’s application for MNO citizenship has been registered by the MNO Registrar;~~ **registered as a citizen of the MNO in accordance with the definition, criteria, and processes outlined in the MNO Bylaws and MNO Registry Policy;**
2. section 2.1(f) of the MNO Harvesting Policy be deleted in its entirety; ~~“ordinarily resident” means a person who lives or has lived the majority of the past year in Ontario excluding temporary absences for reasons including but not limited to, travel, education, medical treatment, military service or incarceration, provided the person was ordinarily resident prior to such temporary absences; and~~
3. section 4.2(b) of the MNO Harvesting Policy be amended to read as follows: ~~that he or she is ordinarily resident in and intends to participate in the Métis harvest in his or her community’s traditional territory; and~~ **“that they intend to participate in the Métis harvest in their community’s traditional territory; and”**
4. section 26(a) of the MNO Registry Policy—Guidelines be amended to read as follows: ~~that he or she is ordinarily resident in and intends to participate in the Métis harvest in his or her traditional territory; and~~ **“that they intend to participate in the Métis harvest in their community’s traditional territory; and”**

RESOLVED (AGA250816-05)

(223 in favour; 39 opposed; 3 abstentions)

15.2 Special Business Resolution #25-AGA-02: Special Resolution on Awareness of the MNO Harvesting Policy and Métis Harvesting Practices

SBR#25-AGA-02 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002 and was brought to the floor to be voted on.

Comments offered on the resolution included: recognizing the COTH have the authority to mandate training where it is warranted and it helps ensure COTH can support Harvesters.

It was MOVED (Steve Gjos) and SECONDED (David Hamilton)

WHEREAS the MNO adopted the *MNO Harvesting Policy* to regulate the harvesting activities of its citizens, including through the issuance of Harvesters Cards (also referred to as Harvester Certificates) to eligible citizens;

AND WHEREAS MNO citizens seeking to exercise s. 35 harvesting rights have a responsibility to properly understand those collective rights and, as such, it is important that they have awareness of the *MNO Harvesting Policy* and Métis harvesting practices;

AND WHEREAS in January 2024, the Captains of the Hunt met to discuss how best the MNO— as their Métis government—can support MNO harvesters in this regard;

AND WHEREAS under the *MNO Harvesting Policy*, the Captains of the Hunt have the authority to manage and administer the Métis harvest within their respective regions, and the Chief Captain of the Hunt is responsible for overseeing the “overall management of the Métis harvest within the Province of Ontario” (ss. 2.1(b), 3.5, 6.1, 6.4);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2025 MNO AGA directs that:

1. section 4.2 of the *MNO Harvesting Policy* be amended to change clause (c) and add clause (d) to now read as follows:
 - c) that he or she is Métis within the definition in 2.1(d)(i); **and**
 - d) that they have demonstrative awareness of this *MNO Harvesting Policy* and Métis harvesting practices, as well as the traditional harvesting territory of the Metis community to which they are ancestrally connected in a manner as may be determined by, and at the discretion of, the Captains of the Hunt in consultation with the Chief Captain of the Hunt, from time to time.
2. section 4.6 of the *MNO Harvesting Policy* be amended to change clauses (c) and (d), as well as add clause (e) to now read as follows:
 - c) on request give permission to the Conservation Officer to speak to the Captain of the Hunt or MNO about all aspects of an incident; ~~and~~
 - d) if charged with an offence, report the charge and provide a copy of the summons and/or information to his or her Captain of the Hunt as soon as possible upon receipt of that summons and/or information; **and**
 - e) if determined by their Captain of the Hunt that awareness of this *MNO Harvesting Policy* and Métis harvesting practices is necessary, completion of an education and training program as may be determined by, and at the discretion of, the Captains of the Hunt in consultation with the Chief Captain of the Hunt, from time to time.
3. section 26 of the *MNO Registry Policy Guidelines* be amended to change clause (b) and add clause (c) to now read as follows:
 - b. if the applicant intends to use firearms or a bow in the Métis harvest, he or she must demonstrate sufficient knowledge of firearms or bow hunting safety or completion of a firearms safety course; **and**
 - c. that they have awareness of the *MNO Harvesting Policy* and Métis harvesting practices, as well as the traditional harvesting territory of the Métis community to which they are ancestrally connected, in a manner as may be determined by, and at the discretion of, the Captains of the Hunt in consultation with the Chief Captain of the Hunt, from time to time.

RESOLVED (AGA250816-06)

(236 in favour; 26 opposed; 3 abstentions)

15.3 Special Business Resolution #25-AGA-03: Resolution on Virtual Voting at General Assembly Meetings

SBR#25-AGA-03 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002 and was brought to the floor to be voted on.

Comments offered in support of the resolution included: it will expand access, strengthen participation and ensure an equal voice/inclusion at Assemblies; citizens should not be excluded from participating due to timing, financial resources and physical ability; technology should be bridge, not an obstacle; inclusion is the heart of democracy; the Statement of Prime Purpose commits to full participation for Métis citizens; while technology may not be perfect, MNO has a duty to include the voices of all citizens; access to MNO's governance should be modernized; MNO should be building bridges, not creating obstacles; important conversations can occur online/virtually and being present online is better than not being present at all; ensuring citizens can vote is democratic; the AGA is not a referendum (a referendum is defined as vote on single political question); and consider utilizing One Feather which MNO uses for its elections.

Comments offered in opposition to the resolution included: concern that people who do not attend AGAs in person are also not involved in their community and do not practice a Métis way of life; any decision on virtual attendance should be delayed under MNO has finalized its Constitution and governance structure; recognition that other important discussions, events, activities and sharing Métis culture occurs in-person; the AGA an Assembly, not a referendum; the Assembly provides an opportunity to learn/understand governance process; virtual attendees should not be setting direction; concern the language "verifiable technological means" is not clearly defined; concern with potential outside influence on decisions being made by allowing virtual attendance; it is important for youth to be present at assemblies and virtual voting cannot replace the teaching that comes from in-person dialogue; in-person gathering has been, and continues to be an act of resistance; concern the language in the resolution prioritizes virtual attendance over in-person; and the spirited debate on the resolution showcases how debate is easier in-person.

General comments offered included: the prior AGA resolution passed in 2022 to allow virtual voting has not been implemented and should be prioritized; it not accurate to state that citizens who do not attend AGAs in person are not involved; and in the absence of a secure platform, MNO should fund more people to attend the AGA.

It was MOVED (Renee Busschaert) and SECONDED (Cathrine Busschaert)

WHEREAS the Metis Nation of Ontario ("MNO") Bylaws have historically been interpreted as only allowing in-person attendees at a General Assembly to be considered "present" and vote;

AND WHEREAS citizens who may continue to not be able to physically travel to an AGA or General Assembly have indicated a strong interest in being able to continue to participate in these important MNO meetings as well as vote as a part of these meetings;

AND WHEREAS, the MNO's Prime Purpose is to establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government and to encourage the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS, one of the MNO's Founding Metis Values is democracy;

AND WHEREAS, at the 2022 MNO AGA, it was Resolved to add the following provisions to section 51 of the MNO Bylaws:

(c) A citizen may participate in a meeting of the General Assembly by communication facilities that permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other and vote through an effective, efficient, and verifiable technological means, and a citizen participating in such a

meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting. In order to ensure technological issues do to hinder or invalidate the conduct of a General Assembly, the quorum requirements set out in (b)

above only include the in-person attendees at the General Assembly on its first day, and the in-person meeting shall be able to continue, at any time, without the

participation of any or all virtual participants. No technological challenges related to virtual participation can invalidate the conduct of an in-person General Assembly in any way.

(d) As a part of the notice requirements for a General Assembly, the PCMNO shall prescribe the requirements for virtual participation and voting in a General Assembly, including, but not

limited to: registration requirements, participation obligations, technological requirements, etc. For greater certainty, unlike in-person attendance, virtual participation in a General Assembly is not an absolute right of citizens and may be limited by the terms set out in the notice issued for a given meeting or technological difficulties that may occur during the conduct of said meeting.

AND WHEREAS, the option to participate in virtual voting at a General Assembly is still not currently available;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following provision be added to section 51(d) of the MNO bylaws:

d) i) Virtual attendance and voting shall be made a priority and every reasonable effort shall be made to give MNO citizens the opportunity to vote virtually. This shall be done prior to the commencement of the following Annual General Assembly (AGA 2026).

DEFEATED

(144 in favour; 137 opposed; 13 abstentions)

15.4 Special Business Resolution #25-AGA-04: Resolution to Amend s. 18 of MNO Registry Policy (August 19, 2023 Version) Proof of Historic Métis Ancestry

This resolution was deemed non-compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002.

15.5 Special Business Resolution #25-AGA-05: PCMNO Senator Upon Retirement

SBR#25-AGA-05 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 that the resolution was discussed and supported by Senators and it clarifies language in the Bylaws.

Comments offered in opposition to the resolution included: any Senator who is not able to finish a term (e.g., due to illness) should not be able to exercise this privilege; that the resolution requires should be brought forward next year following more discussion with Senators; and concern the resolution is intended to fix something which is not broken.

In response to a question and comments, it was noted that the resolution is in reference to the PCMNO and Executive Senator positions.

It was MOVED (Verna Porter-Brunelle) and SECONDED (Steve Callaghan)

Whereas the 2002 AGA Resolution (AGA 02-08), section (d), and MNO Bylaws 16, section (d) reads in part, “Senators, after holding office on the PCMNO or the executive committee, are entitled to retain the title of senator(*) forever after, and that honorary title does not entitle them to participate or vote at PCMNO or executive committee meetings after their term of office has expired;” (*Commonly designated ‘Honourary Senator’)

And whereas there has been some misperception over the meaning of phrases, “after holding office” and “after their term of office has expired;”

Therefore, be it resolved that MNO Bylaw 16 (d) be amended to read:

“A Senator would be granted the title ‘Senator’ forever after, only upon retirement and after completing a full designated term (or terms) of office as a PCMNO Senator or Executive Senator, and that honorary title does not entitle them to participate or vote at PCMNO or executive committee meetings.

DEFEATED

(78 in favour; 147 opposed; 28 abstentions)

15.6 Special Business Resolution #25-AGA-06: Election of PCMNO Senators

SBR#25-AGA-06 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002 and was brought to the floor to be voted on.

Comments offered in support of the resolution included that the resolution has been repeatedly discussed by the Senators and is intended to ensure the election of PCMNO Senators aligns with the PCMNO election.

It was MOVED (Steve Callaghan) and SECONDED (Lillian Ethier)

Whereas the election of the PCMNO Senators currently occurs after the other members of the PCMNO and therefore the Senators are behind the other members in exposure to procedures, orientation, and training;

And whereas the term of office for PCMNO Senators is four years, similar to other elected officials of the PCMNO. The difference being that the PCMNO Senators are elected a few weeks after the other PCMNO officials, by a gathering of Senators at the AGA;

And whereas there are already voting mechanisms and procedures for the election of “Youth” representatives by “youth” citizens, and “Veteran” representatives by “veteran” citizens;

And whereas the election of the PCMNO Senators is governed by Electoral Code Part A #6, and Bylaws #16;

Therefore be it resolved that the election of the PCMNO Senators be held at the same time as the other PCMNO officials, that Electoral Code Part A 6.11 and Bylaw #16 (first part) be amended to read: Each community council may elect a senator pursuant to the MNO Electoral Code: Part B. Those senators elected to sit on their community councils and Advisory councils, together with the senators currently serving on the PCMNO and any senators who have served at least one full term on the PCMNO, are eligible to run for a position of Senator on the PCMNO, and these same Senators are eligible to vote for the PCMNO Senators.

Elections of PCMNO Senators will be overseen and administered by the Chief Electoral Officer in a manner similar to the election of other members of the PCMNO. The selection of the Executive Senator is to be accomplished by the gathering of the Senators at the AGA, should more than one of the four newly elected PCMNO Senators wish to run for the position.

(Bylaw 16 (a), (b), (c), and (d) to remain the same)

RESOLVED (AGA250816-07)

(153 in favour; 54 opposed; 23 abstentions)

15.7 Special Business Resolution #25-AGA-07: Special Resolution for the Creation of a Women’s Council Representative on the PCMNO

This resolution was deemed to be non-compliant compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002.

15.8 Special Business Resolution #25-AGA-08: Resolution to Amend MNO Policy #2011-002 “Process for Conducting Ordinary and Special Business Resolutions”

SBR#25-AGA-08 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002 and was brought to the floor to be voted on.

Comments offered in support of the resolution included: the intention of the resolution to provide more time for the Resolutions Committee to review resolutions during the AGA and streamline the process; under the current process, the Resolutions Committee often works late into the evening; the resolution does not provide any additional powers to the Resolutions Committee; the resolution will create a more accessible process and make the work of the Assembly and Resolutions Committee easier; allowing time for the Resolutions Committee to review resolutions earlier will ensure citizens are aware whether a special resolution is compliant in advance of the Assembly and if not, allow them to put forward an Ordinary Resolution.

During discussion, a concern was raised that as drafted, the Resolutions Committee is appointed for one year, but the Chair would be elected at an AGA for two years.

Legal counsel confirmed that the concern raised regarding the appointment term of the Resolutions Committee and the Resolution Committee Chair is not a fundamental flaw to the implementation of the resolution.

It was MOVED (Jo Anne Young) and SECONDED (Steve Callaghan)

WHEREAS the Metis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) wishes to clarify the process for conducting ordinary and special resolutions at the Annual General Assembly (“AGA”), specifically, the appointment, and composition, and term of the resolutions committee; and

WHEREAS MNO Policy #2011-002, Process for Conducting Ordinary and Special Resolutions at a General Assembly (the “Resolutions Policy”) sets out the requirements for ordinary and special resolutions, as well as the requirement to appoint a resolution committee at the start of each AGA; and

WHEREAS the Resolutions Policy does not include a term for the resolutions committee, nor a process to appoint a Chair of the resolutions committee; and

WHEREAS the appointment of the resolutions committee at the start of the AGA does not provide much time to carefully review all proposed special resolutions, as well as to review all proposed ordinary resolutions and carry out other responsibilities of the resolutions committee; and

WHEREAS the MNO wishes to use the time between the submission of proposed special resolutions and the start of the AGA to review proposed special resolutions, and to provide for greater continuity of the resolutions committee given its important work; and

WHEREAS the current Special Business Resolutions Policy under Process #4 reads:

“At the beginning of the general assembly, a resolutions committee shall be established. The resolutions committee shall include three (3) MNO citizens selected by the general assembly, along with the MNO’s legal counsel. The resolutions committee shall also be supported by the MNO’s administration, as required. The resolutions committee has the authority to review the proposed special resolutions to ensure they are in a form that is consistent with this policy. Only those resolutions that are in compliance with this policy will be brought to the assembly floor by the resolutions committee to be voted on by the assembly. At least one of the identified movers and seconders for each special resolution must be in attendance at the general assembly to act as the mover and seconder when the special resolution is brought to the floor. The resolutions

committee cannot amend special resolutions in order to make them compliant with the policy. If a special resolution does not refer to a specific clause and propose specific wording, it will not be put forward to the annual general assembly for consideration.”

WHEREAS this requires an amendment to the Resolutions Policy/Process #4 to provide that

- A resolutions committee be appointed at an AGA, to sit until the next resolutions committee is appointed at the following year’s AGA;
- The resolutions committee be appointed the year prior will review proposed special resolutions prior to the start of the subsequent AGA and make determinations on their eligibility to be brought forward to the AGA;
- The MNO citizens appoint the Chair to sit for two consecutive years to provide continuity to the resolutions committee; and

WHEREAS the MNO desires to implement a transparent process for the appointment of the Chair of the resolutions committee, which requires an amendment to the Resolutions Policy/Process as it does not currently speak to this issue;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2025 AGA approves the following amendments to MNO Policy # 2011-002

1. Process Section 4 is replaced with the following:

At the beginning of the Annual General Assembly (“AGA”), a resolutions committee shall be established. The resolutions committee will sit from the time it is selected until the appointment of the resolutions committee at the next AGA. The resolutions committee shall include three (3) MNO citizens selected by the AGA, along with the MNO's legal counsel.

One of the three (3) MNO citizens selected will be appointed to sit as the Chair of the resolutions committee, as decided by the resolutions committee, and this individual will sit on the resolutions committee, as the Chair, for two consecutive years. The resolutions committee shall also be supported by the MNO's administration, as required. The resolutions committee has the authority to review the proposed special resolutions to ensure they are in a form that is consistent with this policy.

This review of proposed special resolutions will occur prior to the start of the AGA by the resolutions committee that was selected in the previous year, and those decisions are final and bind the subsequently appointed resolutions committee, which is responsible for bringing them to the floor of the AGA for a vote. Only those proposed special resolutions that are compliant with this Policy will be brought to the floor by the resolutions committee to be voted on by the AGA. At least one of the identified movers and seconders for each special resolution must be in attendance at the AGA to act as the mover and seconder when the special resolution is brought to the floor.

The resolutions committee cannot amend special resolutions in order to make them compliant with the policy. If a special resolution does not refer to a specific clause and proposed wording, it will not be put forward to the annual general assembly for consideration.

2. Section 5 is amended to add:

“The resolutions committee appointed at the AGA, is responsible to review all proposed ordinary resolutions at the AGA at which the resolutions committee was appointed for, to ensure compliance with this policy.”

After

“They also cannot deal with internal and individual staffing and personnel issues.”

RESOLVED (AGA250816-08)

(229 in favour; 28 opposed; 13 abstentions)

15.9 Special Business Resolution #25-AGA-09: Resolution to Amend the MNO Bylaws for CEO and President

SBR#25-AGA-09 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002 and was brought to the floor to be voted on.

Comments offered in support of the resolution included: the resolution is reflective of MNO's growth; separating the role will permit the President to focus on political aspects; it is an important time to separate the roles; the CEO can focus on building out the public service; the bylaw amendment clarifies the role of the CEO.

In response to a concern raised, it was noted that MNO's Bylaws do not include the Two-Spirit+ Council and including this Council would need to be made by way of a Special Business Resolution.

It was MOVED (Suzanne Fortin) and SECONDED (Donna Grenier)

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, as reflected in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose;

AND WHEREAS, in February 2023, the MNO and Canada signed a Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Implementation Agreement ("2023 Self-Government Agreement") that immediately recognized the MNO as a Métis government and committed Canada to negotiating a self-government treaty with the MNO;

AND WHEREAS, in October 2023, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario ("PCMNO") passed resolution PC231010-07 that outlined a series of steps to facilitate implementing the 2023 Self-Government Agreement, including strengthening the MNO's public service through the recruitment and hiring of a Chief Executive Officer ("CEO");

AND WHEREAS, clause 41 of the MNO Bylaws currently states that the "president shall be the chief executive officer of the MNO" and now that the MNO has hired a CEO, there is a need to amend this section of the MNO Bylaws to reflect separate President and CEO roles;

AND WHEREAS, on June 26, 2025, the PCMNO unanimously approved amendments to the MNO Bylaws to align with the hiring of the CEO, to make other minor technical amendments, and to reflect advancements in the MNO's self-government journey;

AND WHEREAS, clause 58 of the MNO Bylaws outlines that "[t]he Bylaws of the MNO may be repealed or amended by resolutions passed by a majority of the councilors at a meeting of the PCMNO, or by a resolution in writing pursuant to clause 27 of these Bylaws, and subsequently confirmed by a Special Resolution at the next General Assembly";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the 2025 Annual General Assembly ("AGA") resolves that:

1. The following amendments to the MNO Bylaws are hereby confirmed (amendments are illustrated in red font below for ease of reference and a track-changes version of the Bylaws with these amendments is attached for illustrative purposes only):
 - a. Clause 1 is amended as follows: "These are the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat, being the legal and administrative arm of the Métis Nation of Ontario, which is the government and Indigenous governing body of its citizens and Métis communities in Ontario comprised of its citizens (the "MNO"). The MNO is composed of nine geographic Regions and has established several institutions to better serve its citizens and the Métis communities comprised of its citizens. Those institutions include the Provisional Council of

- the MNO, the Registry, Community Councils, the Captains of the Hunt, the Veterans Council, the Women’s Council of the MNO and the Youth Council
- b. Clause 12(a) is amended as follows: “MNO Charter Communities and Regions may not incorporate under the laws of Ontario or Canada, but may incorporate their legal and administrative arms under the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act, 2015.”
 - c. Clause 23(i) is amended as follows: “(i) where the Registrar determines that a councilor is not entitled to be registered as a citizen of the MNO pursuant to 4(a);”
 - d. The heading prior to clause 36 is amended as follows: “Executive Committee, Chief Executive Officer, and Other Officers”
 - e. The first sentence in clause 37 is amended as follows: “The executive committee will make decisions and act in a manner consistent with upholding and advancing the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and shall ensure that resolutions and motions passed by the General Assembly and the PCMNO are carried out.”
 - f. Clause 41 is amended as follows: The president shall be the chief spokesperson for the MNO and shall represent the MNO on the Board of Governors of the Métis National Council. The president shall have the general and active management of the affairs of the MNO by providing oversight and direction to the CEO who is responsible to oversee the day-to-day management and operations of the MNO and its Administration.”
 - g. The following text is added as new clauses 45 and 46:

“45. The PCMNO, based on the recommendation from the president, shall confirm or rescind the appointment of a CEO. The CEO shall be an officer of the MNO and responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of the MNO and its Administration. The CEO shall be the most senior civil servant and employee in the Administration.

The CEO shall make decisions and act in a manner consistent with upholding and advancing the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and shall ensure that the duly passed laws, resolutions, motions, and policies of the General Assembly, the PCMNO, and the executive committee are carried out. The CEO shall report on a day-to-day basis to the president and provide regular updates and reports to the executive committee, the PCMNO, and the General Assembly with respect to the property and business of the MNO as well as its Administration.

46. If a vacancy occurs, the president or an official who would be eligible for that office may assume the role of the CEO on an interim basis until a replacement CEO is appointed pursuant to clause 45 of these Bylaws. The office of the CEO shall be deemed vacated if:

 - a. the CEO resigns by delivering a written resignation to the PCMNO;
 - b. if he or she is found by a court to be of unsound mind;
 - c. on death;
 - d. if he or she is terminated;
 - e. if he or she is convicted of an indictable offence; or
 - f. if he or she is placed on an extended leave.”
- g. Clause 55(a) is amended as follows: “The president and CEO shall sit on the finance committee in ex-officio capacities and shall be a non-voting members.”
 - h. Clause 69 is amended to add the following definitions: “Administration” means the professional public service of the MNO that reports to the CEO;” and “Chief Executive Officer” or “CEO” means the officer of the MNO who is responsible to oversee the day-to-day management and operations of the MNO and its Administration;” and
 - h. Clauses 14, 14(a), and 23(f), are amended to capitalize the reference to “Regions”.
2. The MNO legal counsel is directed to:
 - a. Make any technical or legal amendments related to the above, including updating cross-references and formatting;
 - b. Register the amended MNO Bylaws; and

- c. Provide an updated copy of the MNO Bylaws with these amendments to the MNO, which the MNO administration shall post publicly on the MNO website.

RESOLVED (AGA250816-09)

(210 in favour; 36 opposed; 12 abstentions)

15.10 Special Business Resolution #25-AGA-10: Resolution to Amend the MNO Electoral Code, Part B: Article 4 – Authority of the Council Electoral Officer

SBR#25-AGA-10 was deemed to be compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002 and was brought to the floor to be voted on.

Comments offered in support of the resolution included: the resolution provides the Chief Electoral Officer the authority to ensure the rules approved by the Assembly are enforced; and the Chief Electoral Officer should have the authority to address breaches of the Electoral Code while electoral reform work, which is reaffirmed in MNO's self-government agreement is completed.

It was MOVED (Steve Callaghan) and SECONDED (Mitch Case)

Whereas, the Chief Electoral Officer is appointed by resolution of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and is responsible for decision-making, overseeing and ensuring that the Métis Nation of Ontario's elections are thoroughly carried out and followed in accordance with the Electoral Code Part A (also known as the Code); and

Whereas the council Electoral Officer is appointed by the community council for their elections, and

Whereas, a common source of complaints in past elections was alleged unethical behaviour by candidates; and

Whereas, to ensure that the Electoral Officer can properly administer MNO elections, they must have the authority to employ the rules of the Code; and

Whereas, to properly assert the rules of the Code, the Electoral Officer must have the authority to initiate investigations and, as applicable, impose sanctions for non-compliance and breaches of the Code

Therefore, be it resolved that Article 4.1 of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Electoral Code Part B is amended to include a new Article 4.1 (f), which shall be written as follows:

4.1 (f) The Chief Electoral Officer has the authority to investigate allegations of inappropriate behaviour under the electoral code and to impose decisions or sanctions as necessary for a breach of the Code. The Chief Electoral Officer may:

- I. Initiate an investigation and issue a final decision.
- II. Request a change in behaviour that the candidate is required to follow.
- III. Impose sanctions such as a reprimand, public censure, or disqualification of a candidate, in consultation with the Chief Electoral Officer.
- IV. Declare an election for a specific position invalid, null, and void.
- V. Should the electoral officer identify a possible breach of the code, the electoral officer shall engage with the Chief electoral officer who shall review and administer the possible breach.
- VI. In the event of a serious breach of the Code, in the opinion of the Chief Electoral Officer, or a refusal to comply with a request to amend behaviour, made by the Chief Electoral Officer, the Chief Electoral Officer may impose a ban upon a Candidate from running for an elected office position for up to five (5) years.

RESOLVED (AGA250816-10)

(203 in favour; 20 opposed; 16 abstentions)

14. Presentation: Revitalizing Our Histories – Métis Homes and Housing in Ontario

Ryan Shackelton, CEO, and Stacey Devlin, Project Manager, Know History, shared a presentation titled, “MNO Housing Project” commenting on:

- Know History’s experience
- The project’s approach, which included reviewing census records up to 1931 to collect information on Métis housing
- Phase two of the project: to discuss oral histories
- The project’s findings
- Key census findings:
 - Métis neighbours in Kenora, French Portage, Fort Frances, Agwa Bay, Sault Ste. Marie
 - Sault Ste. Marie River Lots
 - Example of land plots from 1931 census for Mattawa in 1931
 - Métis relationship to the land.

Greg Garratt, Associate Secretary for Housing and Infrastructure, confirmed the research project is intended to document Métis history often overlooked and erased and it will tell stories backed by documents and facts. Delegates were encouraged to share old photos of homes and homesteads with Know History.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cadeau thanked delegates for their participation during Day Two of the Assembly. The 32nd MNO AGA, held August 15-17, 2025, adjourned on Day Two – August 16, 2026, at 4:29 p.m.

DAY THREE – August 17, 2025

MNO 2025 AGA BUSINESS MEETING RECONVENED

The 2025 MNO AGA held August 15-17, 2025, reconvened on Day Three – August 17, 2025, at 9:19 a.m. President Froh recalled discussions and presentations that occurred on Day Two, reminded delegates of the importance of cancer screening, and introduced Luanne Cunningham who provided information on the “Love yourself First” program.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Cadeau confirmed quorum was present with a total of 209 delegates in attendance.

16. ORDINARY / NON-SPECIAL BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions Committee Chair Bergman, announced that the Resolutions Committee received and reviewed a total of seven additional Ordinary Business (non-Special Business) Resolutions and all were deemed compliant with MNO Policy #2011-002.

16.1 Ordinary Resolution #25-AGA-OR-02: Feasibility of MNO Support for a 2025 MNOYC Youth Health Summit

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

Comments offered in support of the resolution included: the resolution, supported by the MNOYC, recognition recognizes the current mental health crisis affecting youth and as such, the need for extra youth supports.

It was MOVED (Evan Accettola) and SECONDED (Kaitlyn Anderson-Mitchell)

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of Métis youth is a priority for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), as demonstrated by its support for research and initiatives that address the health priorities of Métis youth in Ontario;

WHEREAS, according to the 2017 StatsCan Aboriginal Peoples Survey, **only 55% of Métis youth aged 15 to 24 reported having excellent or very good mental health**, meaning that approximately 45% are experiencing fair or poor mental health or are otherwise struggling,

WHEREAS, the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) advocates on behalf of Métis youth across the province and works to elevate youth voices within the MNO;

WHEREAS, the MNOYC has established a provincial Youth Health & Wellness Portfolio with the goal of organizing a Métis Youth Health & Wellness Summit in 2026;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2025 MNO Annual General Assembly encourages the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and MNO Secretariat to seek the necessary resources to convene a Métis Youth Health & Wellness Summit in 2026, including non-financial supports such as guidance, promotion, and collaboration.

RESOLVED (AGA250817-01)

(171 in favour; 30 opposed; 4 abstentions)

16.2 Ordinary Resolution #25-AGA-OR-03: Providing Child Care during Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council's Annual Youth Conference

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

Comments offered in support of the resolution included: the resolution will allow youth who are caregivers to participate in the Youth Conference; the intention to address a gap; recognition that childcare is offered by the MNO at many other events; concern having been expressed by many youth they cannot participate at the Conference without childcare; the resolution does not have any financial obligations, but rather implores the MNO Secretariat to investigate and explore options; the resolution will create access and remove barriers.

Comments offered in opposition to the resolution included: concerns regarding the cost which is unknown; desire to have the Secretariat look at this closely on the issue of affordability without cutting other programming; concern with the age range of youth from 16 to 29.

It was MOVED (Pandora Cassandra Wilhelm) and SECONDED (Jeffrey Dusome)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has a longstanding commitment to promoting equal and full participation of Métis youth in governance, cultural and nation-building events;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) hosts its annual Youth Conference immediately prior to the Annual General Assembly (AGA);

WHEREAS the MNO already provides culturally appropriate childcare via Camp AGA during the AGA;

WHEREAS youth parents and caregivers often face barriers to participation, particularly due to the lack of accessible and affordable childcare;

WHEREAS creating a child care service for the Youth Conference will reduce barriers, uphold the MNO's ongoing commitments to youth inclusion and strengthen their engagement in governance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2025 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly directs that:

- 1.) The MNO Secretariat in collaboration with the MNOYC consider the following recommendations:
 - a) Consult with Youth parents and caregivers to determine identified child care needs and barriers in relation to attending and being able to fully participate the annual MNOYC Youth Conference via engagement sessions
 - b) Develop a Child Care Implementation Plan for the Youth Conference based on the identified needs from the engagement sessions
 - c) Conduct an internal MNO staff feasibility review to determine potential staffing of the child care at the youth conference
 - d) Look into opportunities to identify and secure funding from applicable sources, including both federal and provincial programs, to create a feasible, culturally relevant childcare opportunity for Youth participants during the MNOYC Youth Conference
 - e) Ensure that any child care provided aligns with the regulations outlined in the Child Care and Early Years Act, Ministry of Education Regulations on unlicensed day camps, and ensure that staff supporting the children have completed child safeguarding training as well as Standard First Aid and CPR Training and any additional applicable training to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the children within their care.

RESOLVED (AGA250817-02)

(170 in favour; 39 opposed; 3 abstentions)

16.3 Ordinary Resolution #25-AGA-OR-04: Enhance MNO Secretariat Procurement from MNO Citizen-Owned Businesses

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

Comments offered in support of the resolution included: it is important to support, and track funding spent to support citizen-owned businesses; there is a need to strengthen the local economy and keep Métis business and economic opportunities in the community; it supports the MNO developing policies to enhance procurement opportunities; if approved, the resolution will improve MNO's purchasing policies and increase awareness of Ontario Métis businesses.

It was MOVED (Kathleen Anderson) and SECONDED (Mitch Case)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was founded 32 years ago to establish a Métis specific governance structure to promote and support Métis within Ontario;

WHEREAS one of the MNO's founding aims and objectives, enshrined within the Statement of Prime Purpose, is to develop prosperity and economic self-sufficiency within the Métis Nation;

WHEREAS the MNO Secretariat is a major purchaser of products and services, including locally at its 30+ offices and owned properties across the province, with the ability to make major contributions toward advancing prosperity and economic self-sufficiency for Métis in Ontario;

WHEREAS many MNO Citizens throughout the province own businesses that could meet a significant portion of the MNO Secretariat's procurement needs;

AND WHEREAS many MNO Citizen-owned businesses also employ other MNO Citizens and, through their employment, contribute to the wellbeing of entire Métis families and communities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2025 MNO Annual General Assembly encourages the MNO Secretariat to explore strategies and opportunities to further grow and enhance its procurement from MNO Citizen-owned businesses, including but not limited to:

- i. Developing and maintaining an MNO Secretariat Business Registry of verified MNO Citizen-owned businesses (which have a minimum of 25% Métis ownership) that can be utilized internally when procurement opportunities arise;
- ii. Providing training to managers, directors, and other purchasers within the MNO Secretariat to ensure that they are aware of and able to effectively utilize the MNO Secretariat Business Registry within their procurement processes;
- iii. Establishing a baseline of total current MNO procurement from MNO Citizen-owned businesses, for the purposes of target-setting and measuring progress over time;
- iv. Developing appropriate infrastructure and processes for tracking procurement from MNO Citizen-owned businesses on an ongoing basis; and,
- v. Providing annual reporting to PCMNO and MNO Citizens on the MNO Secretariat's total procurement from MNO Citizen-owned businesses and ongoing efforts to further enhance its effectiveness.

RESOLVED (AGA250817-03)

(176 in favour; 26 opposed; 6 abstentions)

16.4 Ordinary Resolution #25-AGA-OR-05: To Form a Métis Cultural Facilitator Committee

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

Comments offered in support of the resolution included: the need to ensure misinformation is corrected; support for ensuring Métis Cultural Facilitators in educational facilities are verified citizens; support for sharing education kits with school boards; the intention of the resolution to create another mechanism to help raise awareness of, and support for, Métis students in educational institutions; the lack of Métis-specific supports and resources in educational institutes; the need for more Métis Cultural Facilitators to help teach Métis knowledge; and need to help Métis youth feel represented and supported in schools.

Comments offered in opposition to the resolution included: this is the role of the Powley Institute; recognition that there are resources produced by MNO's early learning and child-care (ELCC) which are available to teachers; the need to amend the *Education Act*; ensuring information is factual and concern that non-vetted resources could be harmful.

General comments offered included recognition for the work of MNO's ELCC staff; the need to understand this work is already occurring (e.g., the Infinite Reach support network, MNO's ELCC and education and training staff); support for changing the *Education Act* to include Métis.

It was MOVED (Kelly Brett) and SECONDED (Cathy Loughran)

WHEREAS The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) K-12 Métis Education Kits are delivered throughout education spaces; however, there are currently no set processes in place for mobilizing accurate Métis stories and cultural traditions, and there has been a growing need within Ontario communities and Education systems to learn more about our Métis culture and traditions.

AND WHEREAS within the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose,

"The Métis Nation continues today to be the embodiment of our past, the source of sustenance for our present while giving rise to our hopes and aspirations for the future."

- *"To promote the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage;"*
- *"To promote Métis artistic and cultural achievement;"*

- *“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;”*

AND WHEREAS the Expert Panel Report 2025, National Definition of Métis: A Review of Communities in Ontario, page 120, paragraph six states:

“The Panel recognizes that while the MNO has done a positive job litigating and negotiating Métis rights, it has done a less-than-stellar job in educating people, including other Métis, First Nations, and non-Indigenous, about their communities’ stories which has contributed to the lack of public awareness and present-day animosity to their stated existence. In our conversations with MNO citizens and staff, MNO has agreed on the need to do better in this regard.”

AND WHEREAS the distinct nature of our Métis traditions in each Métis community in Ontario is preserved, protected, celebrated and passed along – through the voices and teachings of Community accepted Métis Citizens.

AND WHEREAS there is currently underrepresentation of Métis voices throughout Ontario Indigenous Education Councils, and there are continued challenges of defending our right, as Métis, to be included at the Indigenous Council tables so our voices can be heard, and our Métis culture and traditions - that set us apart from other Indigenous groups - can be more widely understood.

AND WHEREAS our Métis children have the right to be accurately represented in order to proudly represent our culture and traditions in public spaces. We, the Métis have been in hiding for generations and we, as a people, need to build up our future generations to be proud Métis with accurate representation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Annual General Assembly directs the PCMNO to support the formation of a **citizen led** Métis Cultural Facilitators Committee that will define, identify, recruit, support, and help to mobilize Métis Cultural Facilitators that exist in our Communities, who support consistent and cohesive stories in sharing our unique Métis traditions as per existing and accepted MNO resources;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Committee is directed to create a readily available directory of Metis Cultural Facilitators that Communities can access and share by May 2026; the Committee is directed to continue to expand this directory through ongoing recruitment, qualification, training and support for Métis Cultural Facilitators who can be mobilized to share and preserve our history and traditions in our Communities, outside institutions, and with our partner governments for generations to come.

DEFEATED

(80 in favour; 106 opposed; 19 abstentions)

16.5 Ordinary Resolution #25-AGA-OR-06: MNO Harvesting Policy – Defining Fish Sanctuaries

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

Comments offered in support of the resolution included: support for including a definition for sanctuaries in the Harvesting Policy; the intention of the resolution to allow MNO’s legal team to develop a definition for sanctuaries and a subsequent amendment to the Harvesting Policy.

It was MOVED (Steve Gjos) and SECONDED (Art Bennett)

WHEREAS Section 3.1 of the MNO Harvesting Policy states: "It is an objective of the MNO to encourage conservation practices during the Métis harvest so that the species are preserved for future generations. MNO citizens who participate in the Métis harvest will:

- a) Make best efforts not to destroy or damage fish or wildlife habitat;
- b) Not harvest species of special concern, threatened or endangered species;
- c) Not waste or spoil wildlife or fish;
- d) **Not harvest in fish sanctuaries or in waterfowl sanctuaries**; and [emphasis added]
- e) Make best efforts not to harvest lactating sow bears with or without cubs;

AND WHEREAS the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting states that Ontario and the MNO will prioritize and promote conservation and sustainable resource management to support healthy and sustainable fish and wildlife populations in the province, including pursuing focused management efforts where conservation concerns exist (section 8);

AND WHEREAS the province of Ontario has multiple areas within Métis Traditional Harvesting Territories defined as “fish sanctuaries” and/or “waterfowl sanctuaries” for all or portions of the year;

AND WHEREAS MNO's prohibition on fish sanctuaries and waterfowl sanctuaries is broader in scope than Ontario's, in that non-MNO harvesters can harvest in some waterbodies designated as "fish sanctuaries" and "waterfowl sanctuaries" during specific times of the season; however, MNO harvesters are currently prohibited during all seasons under MNO Harvesting Policy;

AND WHEREAS Ontario does not have a legal definition within their regulatory regime for “fish sanctuaries” and “waterfowl sanctuaries”, yet in Ontario policy fish sanctuaries are strongly linked to conservation objectives;

AND WHEREAS Métis Harvesters are concerned that Ontario is defining waterbodies as fish sanctuaries and waterfowl sanctuaries to support tourism, rather than purpose of conservation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- The MNO pursue further research into definitions of fish sanctuaries and waterfowl sanctuaries for the purposes of the MNO Harvesting Policy.
- The MNO consider requesting the RRP Branch staff to develop a concept paper for implementation of an amendment to MNO Harvesting Policy, to explore Métis harvesting in fish and waterfowl sanctuaries, especially during times that Province deems fish sanctuaries and waterfowl sanctuaries open for harvest.

RESOLVED (AGA250817-04)

(181 in favour; 11 opposed; 13 abstentions)

16.6 Ordinary Resolution #25-AGA-OR-07: Resolution in Support of Ontario’s First Nations’ Resistance to use Glyphosate-based herbicides within Ontario

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

Comments offered in support of the resolution included: recognizing Métis have obligations to territories, families and Mother Earth; support for forcing the province to stop using glyphosate-based herbicides; support for Ontario First Nations in their call to ban the use of Glyphosate-based herbicides.

It was MOVED (Tony Belcourt) and SECONDED (Donna Grenier)

WHEREAS beginning in the late 1700s distinct Métis communities emerged along the fur trade routes and waterways surrounding the Upper Great Lakes and what is now northern Ontario, developing their own group identities, culture, way of life, and special relationship to the land; and

WHEREAS the Métis communities in Ontario 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 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
- to protect and preserve the land and waters within our homelands for future generations.

WHEREAS the use of Glyphosate-based herbicides has been banned in over 40 countries, made illegal in Ontario for use on cosmetic lawns, and have been linked to cancer, other diseases, and are damaging to ecosystems and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS multi-national forestry companies operating in Ontario are choosing to continue to spray toxic chemical herbicides-including Glyphosate-based herbicides-within Ontario's public forests without consideration of the cost to the environment, the animals, or the health of the people who live or visit there;

WHEREAS the Constitution Act, 1982 protects rights for Métis, First Nation, and Inuit communities to fish, hunt, gather food and medicines, which may be threatened by the use of herbicides which are known to poison the lands, the water, and all species that rely on the forests and waters for survival;

WHEREAS Ontario First Nations and territorial organizations have recently reaffirmed their decades of advocacy to end herbicide spray on their traditional territories;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly in consensus in 1999 (AGA Resolution #2), has expressed concern over chemical aerial spray for the use of forest management;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2025 MNO Annual General Assembly stands in solidarity with Ontario First Nations in calling for an end to aerial spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides across Ontario's forests.

RESOLVED (AGA250817-05)

(186 in favour; 7 opposed; 12 abstentions)

16.7 Ordinary Resolution #25-AGA-OR-08: Resolution to Address Métis Denialism with Ontario Human Rights Commission

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

Comments offered in support of the resolution included: the discrimination and harassment faced by Métis preventing them from sharing their stories; the need to address the suffering experienced by online hate denying the existence of Métis people; the importance of calling out the discriminatory, harassing behaviour and racial discrimination; concern that one group has been unilaterally deciding who Métis are and they are partnering with First Nations to deny the existence of Métis communities in Ontario; the Ontario Human Rights Commissioner's attendance at the AGA and commitment to committing to working with the MNO; support for raising this issue with the Canadian Human Rights Commission; and recognition of the significant work the MNO has been doing (Ontario Métis Facts, Rooted in Resilience book, etc.) to counter the claims.

It was MOVED (Lisa Monchalin) and SECONDED (Danielle Gendron)

WHEREAS beginning in the late 1700s distinct Métis communities (often described or known as “Halfbreeds” in historic record) emerged along the fur trade routes and waterways surrounding the Upper Great Lakes and what is now northern Ontario, developing their own group identities, culture, way of life, and special relationship to the land; and

WHEREAS despite being historically acknowledged and/or recognized as distinct Indigenous communities by other Indigenous peoples, the Crown, outsiders and settlers, Métis communities in Ontario were largely excluded from the historic treat-making process except for the “Halfbreeds of Rainy River and Lake” collectively adhering to Treat 3 in 1875; and

WHEREAS the history of Métis communities in Ontario-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 that fact that in the past, successive Crown governments denying the very existence of Métis communities in Ontario, these distinct Métis communities have persevered to ensure colonization and ignorance does not succeed and make Métis communities in Ontario a mere fact of history; and

WHEREAS the Métis communities in Ontario joined with other Indigenous peoples and Métis from the prairies to push for recognition that ultimately led to Métis inclusion-as a distinct Aboriginal peoples-in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* ("**Section 35**"); and

WHEREAS the Métis communities in Ontario along with other Métis from the prairies 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

WHEREAS within the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose-that has guided the MNO's development and evolution as a Métis government over the last 31 years-the following objectives are identified as priorities:

- to promote the improved health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community; and
- to promote the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation and to create an awareness of our proud heritage; and

WHEREAS in 1996 the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Final Report ("**RCAP**") was publicly released and included important research, conclusions and recommendations about Métis communities in Ontario, including:

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 Metis Communities in Ontario, the Ontario Government denied the very existence of the Metis Communities in Ontario-and any Métis rights "whatsoever" in the province in the 1990s; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Government's denial of all Métis in Ontario required the MNO to advance the *Powley* case – as a Métis rights test case – for all Métis in Ontario and entire Métis Nation all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada ("**SCC**"), culminating in the SCC's unanimous 2003 decision wherein the facts of Métis history at Sault Ste Marie and the Upper Great Lakes began to be better understood and shared with the governments, the public-at-large, and First Nations; and

WHEREAS following the SCC'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 over the last 31 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, and the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Implementation in February 2023; and

WHEREAS the aims and objectives of the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose provisions include

- 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; and
- 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 2004 at the Annual Meeting of the Anishinabek Nation at Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, the MNO and the Anishinabek Nation held a sacred Nation to Nation Ceremony to commemorate and rekindle their historic alliances through the traditional way of bringing our songs to the drum, smoking our pipes, dancing and a feast; and

WHEREAS this sacred ceremony was witnessed by all Chiefs in the Assembly, First Nations Elders, MNO Senators and Leaders, AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine and Métis National Council President Clem Chartier; and

WHEREAS in 2004 at the 30th Annual All Chiefs Conference at Hiawatha First Nation, the Chiefs in Assembly were presented with a COO and MNO Political Accord which was then signed on November 16 2004 by Ontario Regional Chief Charles Fox and MNO President Tony Belcourt at that Louis Riel Day Ceremony at Queen's Park in Toronto; and

WHEREAS despite these many indisputable facts of recognition and successes in recent years some political actors and their hired consultants have increasingly promoted dishonest narratives that the only "real Métis" come from the Red River-despite the Powleys, the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community, other Métis communities in Ontario as well as Métis communities in other parts of western Canada not simply being diaspora communities from Red River; and

WHEREAS as a direct result of the actions of these political actors and consultants denying the well-documented history of the Métis communities in Ontario which have been repeatedly recognized by First Nations, other Métis governments, Canada, the Government of Ontario, RCAP, *Powley*, the Métis National Council Expert Panel's Final Report, and the courts, this Métis denialism has led to MNO citizens being subjected to harassment and discriminatory behaviour online, in the media, at their places of work, and in other venues based on their ancestral connections to Métis communities in Ontario; and

WHEREAS this harassment and discriminatory behaviour has negatively affected the businesses, employment, and financial security of some MNO citizens; and

WHEREAS this harassment and discriminatory behaviour has led MNO citizens to fear for their physical wellbeing; and

WHEREAS the 2023 MNO passed resolution AGA230819-03-known as the Revitalizing Métis Stories, Histories, Alliances and Relationship resolution-which, among other things, directed the MNO to take steps to defend Métis youth, families, and communities in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Human Rights code prohibits actions that discriminate against people based on their ancestry, citizenship, and ethnic origin in a protected social area which include but is not limited to workplaces, goods and services facilities, and within professional associations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the 2025 MNO Annual General Assembly directs the MNO as the recognized Métis Government in Ontario with a mandate to defend Métis citizens and communities in Ontario to engage with the Ontario Human Rights Commission to investigate the harassment and discriminatory attacks which MNO citizens have been subjected to in recent years based on their ancestral connection to the Métis Communities in Ontario and citizenship with the MNO.

RESOLVED (AGA250817-06)

(199 in favour; 4 opposed; 5 abstentions)

MNO 2025 AGA – BUSINESS MEETING CONCLUDES

Chair Cadeau thanked citizens for their participation in the 2025 AGA and extended appreciation to the MNO staff for their work in supporting a successful Assembly.

President Froh acknowledged the Assembly’s celebration of the past year’s success, sharing Métis history, culture and storytelling and the historic passing of the new Powley Institute Act. The President extended thanked all those that contributed to the AGA’s success including the Senators, AV Team, Veterans, Education team for Camp AGA, the MNO Events Team, AGA Chair, host Regional communities. Delegates were reminded to read and share the Ontario Métis Facts website and information.

Region 4 Council members passed the torch to Region 2 Council members, as the 2026 host community.

CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

The 32nd Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly, held August 15-17, 2025, concluded on Day 3 – August 17, 2025, at 11:59 a.m. Senator Donna Grenier offered a Closing Prayer.

* * * *

This is a true and correct copy of the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 15-17, 2025, and incorporates any and all amendments made at the time of adoption.

Jo Anne Young, Secretary-Treasurer

Sharon Cadeau, Chair

List of Reference Materials

Please refer to the www.mnoaga.ca for a list of the materials which were posted and available to participants at the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly held August 15-17, 2025.