

## ADVANCING A CONSTITUTION TO A PROVINCE-WIDE CITIZEN RATIFICATION VOTE

**WHEREAS**, the Métis, being a distinct Indigenous people that emerged in the historic North-West prior to Canada becoming a country, collectively hold the inherent right of self-government recognized in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (“**UNDRIP**”) and s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* (“**Section 35**”);

**WHEREAS**, in the historic North-West, distinct Métis communities in what is now northern Ontario as well as areas surrounding the Upper Great Lakes developed their own collective identities, traits and traditions and have been self-governing for generations, including engaging in diplomatic relations with other Indigenous peoples and the Crown, as well as asserting and advancing their own distinct rights and interests anchored on their pre-existence as Indigenous communities;

**WHEREAS**, in 1993, the descendants of these historic Métis communities in Ontario, along with Métis who are the descendants of other Métis communities that emerged in the historic North-West, came together as a distinct Métis collectivity and adopted a *Statement of Prime Purpose* that formed the Métis Nation of Ontario (“**MNO**”) as their “representative body”;

**WHEREAS**, as set of in the *Statement of Prime Purpose*, the MNO’s “aims and objectives” include “establish[ing] democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government” and “ensur[ing] 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”;

**WHEREAS**, as a part of its mandate to “establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government”, the MNO has continued to develop and evolve — as a Métis government — that represents its Citizens and Métis communities comprised of its Citizens through local, regional, provincial governance structures and institutions;

**WHEREAS**, as a part of its mandate to ensure “Métis can exercise their Aboriginal and Treaty rights and freedoms”, the MNO supported the Powley family and the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community in fighting the Government of Ontario’s complete denial of all Métis Section 35 rights in the province, leading to the Supreme Court of Canada’s unanimous judgement in *R. v. Powley* that confirmed the Sault Ste Marie Métis community possesses land related rights protected by Section 35;

**WHEREAS**, based on the federal Crown’s constitutional responsibility under s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* to advance relationships with all Indigenous peoples, the MNO and the Government of Canada (“**Canada**”) commenced formal negotiations in 2017 and signed a *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement* (“**MGRSA**”) and a *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Implementation Agreement* (“**MGRSIA**”) in 2019 and 2023, respectively;

**WHEREAS**, through the MGRSIA, Canada immediately recognized the MNO as a Metis government representing a Métis collectivity that “possesses the inherent right to self-determination recognized in [UNDRIP] and the inherent right of self-government recognized and affirmed in the common law and by [Section 35]” and committed Canada to reaching a self-government treaty with the MNO (“**Treaty**”);

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**WHEREAS**, in 2024, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (“**PCMNO**”) passed a resolution setting out Strategic Priorities for its 4-year mandate, including direction that a “MNO Statement of Principles for a Constitution...be brought out for consultations...consistent with the MNO-wide self-government consultation plan and commitments in the MNO Regional Implementation Agreements”;

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, a draft Statement of Principles for an MNO Constitution (“**Statement of Principles**”) was publicly released, and extensive consultations were undertaken to hear directly from Citizens on what is missing, what needs further refinement, and were additional conversations and consultation is required;

**WHEREAS**, based on the consultations undertaken on the Statement of Principles throughout 2025, there was overwhelming support for the MNO to continue to move forward on adopting a Constitution and reaching a Treaty, as committed to in the MGRSIA and like other Métis governments have already done;

**WHEREAS**, in early 2026, the MNO’s longstanding legal counsel on Métis rights was tasked with preparing a preliminary draft of a Constitution (“**Preliminary Draft Constitution**”);

**WHEREAS**, on April 14, 2026, the MNO’s legal counsel provided the Preliminary Draft Constitution to the MNO President and the Co-Provincial Secretaries for Métis Rights, Inter-Governmental Relations, and Communications;

**WHEREAS**, in consideration of the history and context set out above, the PCMNO has now had the opportunity to consider next steps regarding the Preliminary Draft Constitution;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The Preliminary Draft Constitution will next be brought to Cabinet, the PCMNO and the MNO’s elected leadership at the local and regional levels for their initial review, consideration and further refinement prior to being publicly released to all Citizens for consultations;
2. Following the initial review of the Preliminary Draft Constitution set out in #1 being complete, a draft Constitution (“**2026 Draft Constitution**”) will be publicly released in the Fall of 2026 in order for province-wide consultations on this draft to begin that are consistent with the MNO-wide self-government consultation plan and commitments in the MNO Regional Implementation Agreements;
3. Based on the feedback and input received from the consultations set out in #2, a further Draft Constitution will be developed and finalized for some time in 2027 (“**2027 Draft Constitution**”) to ultimately be put to a province-wide ratification vote in mid to late 2027 that all Citizens over the age of 16 years will have an opportunity to vote within (“**2027 Ratification Vote**”); and
4. The MNO negotiations team be directed to prioritize reaching a draft Treaty with Canada with the goal of a draft Treaty also being voted on in the 2027 Ratification Vote.

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