



Métis Women  
British Columbia

# Provincial Governance Council Guide to Good Governance 2023-2024



# the aunties who run the place

the aunties who run this place  
don't need votes to build power  
don't lead to control  
don't show care just for clout

fierce love governs  
through cackles across dinner tables  
and life advice  
woven between road trip songs

order is kept by telling stories  
of family victories and sorrows  
tangled with questions of  
who we are  
where we come from  
where we are going

the aunties who run this place  
aren't afraid to tell you what you  
need to hear  
to smarten up and do better  
— to want better

they remind us that we are loved and  
worthy  
worthy of joy  
worthy of safety  
worthy of life where we truly own  
ourselves

in times of grief and uncertainty  
and moments of hope and dreaming  
the aunties lay truths like medicine

backyards, bingo halls, book pages,  
and board rooms  
all filled with threads of knowing  
and healing


the aunties who run this place  
sip their tea with humble smiles  
ready to work and love with intention  
understanding that governance  
happens  
when we show up for one another

- poem by Lindsay DuPré, Red River Métis mom and auntie living in Saskatchewan





# Table of Contents

1. Historical Landscape
  2. MWBC Logo and Sash
  3. Terms of Reference
  4. Written Guidance
  5. MWBC Women's Governance Policy  
Manual
  6. Key Considerations
  7. Remuneration/Workshop Facilitation
  8. Relational Governance
  9. Pathways to Conflict Resolution
  10. Governance Pathways
  11. Robert's Rules of Order Cheat Sheet
  12. Relationship with MNBC
  13. Directory
  14. FAQ
  15. Community Care
  16. Resources
- 

# Historical Landscape





# Historical Landscape

During the fur trade, Indigenous women, their kinship networks, and knowledge of the land were integral to the survival of European traders, and economic development in the Northwest. These unions were the foundations of the birth of the Métis nation.

Community roles within the Métis Nation were considered complementary and integral to the care of the community, none of them more valuable than the next. Métis women contributed to the success of the buffalo hunts, by governing the internal affairs of the hunt camps and in the preparation of the furs and pemmican.



Photo:  
Métis Women BC  
Governance and Leadership sash



Photo:  
Octopus bag. Canadian Museum of History, III-Z-33, CD2002-0346-027, 028 identified as Cree or Métis

Métis women had integral roles in the decision-making and traditional governance of their communities, and to the care of their families and communities through the transmission of traditional knowledge, and material production of coats, moccasins, and other clothing. Their needlework ensured the continued income for families in the decline of the fur trade, and their beadwork an act of resistance to the changing political landscape.

Kelly Saunders and Janique Dubois share the importance between kinship and culture “[t]hrough kinship, women also contributed to keeping Métis identity, history, and culture alive, notably during the period of le grand silence, [The Great Silence] which followed the defeat at Batoche and the hanging of Louis Riel.”

- Métis Politics and Governance in Canada (2019, 120).

# MWBC Logo, and Governance and Leadership Sash



# Logo Design



## Original Concept:

The original design for the MWBC logo was created in 2016 by Alicia Fernando and Barb Toombs, MWBC council members at the time.

The former MWBC Governance Council met with a digital artist, to create some ideas based off of the original design.

## The Finalized Logo

The finalized logo consists of the following concepts:

- A traditional Métis 5 petal flower/rose
- Maintains the 7 beads around the center, which is traditional in beading, one for each Regional Women's Representative



# MWBC Leadership and Governance Sash

**Magenta** - Respecting and honouring our ancestors and life givers, provides strength and comfort.

**Pink** - Promising to protect, love and nurture the women and girls in our lives.

**Purple** - Honouring our Grandmothers and matriarchy we show our respect for their wisdom, hardships, love and way of life.

**Three shades of blue** - The depth of spirit among Métis women.

**White** - Representing peace and hope





# MWBC Terms of Reference





## Provincial Governance Council Terms of Reference

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Provincial Women's Chairperson  
Seven Regional Women's Representatives

**TERM:** Council members serve for a four-year term

**CHAIRPERSON:** Provincial Women's Chairperson

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON:** Elected from among its members on a rotating basis

**SECRETARY:** Elected from among its members

**TREASURER:** Elected from among its members

**DESIGNATION:** The MWBC Provincial Governance Council is elected by the Métis women in British Columbia to conduct the affairs of the MWBC.

**DEPARTMENT LEAD:** Director of Women and Gender Equity

**SECRETARIAT:** Project Coordinator, Ministry of Women and Gender Equity

**MEETINGS:** The MWBC Provincial Governance Council shall hold no less than four meetings, including telephone or in person meetings, each year called by the Provincial Women's Chairperson or, in the event the Provincial Women's Chairperson is unwilling or unable to call a meeting shall be called by the Vice-Chair.

**QUORUM:** Five Members

**VOTING:** The Provincial Women's Chairperson and the seven Regional Representatives each shall hold voting seats in the Provincial Governance Council.

**PURPOSE:**

The MWBC is the elected voice for all the Métis women in British Columbia. The MWBC is entrusted to enhance and empower the rights of Métis women. The MWBC is also entrusted to ensure, by working with the MNBC and its recognized affiliates, that Métis women's aspirations are included at the community, regional, provincial, and national level to promote the social, economic, cultural, and political well-being of all Métis women.

**REPORTING MECHANISM:**

MWBC shall prepare and maintain written minutes of all meetings and conference calls (the "MWBC Minutes"). MWBC Minutes shall be archived in the head office of the Métis Nation British Columbia.

**EXPENSES:**

Meeting expenses must be submitted to Director of Women and Gender Equity for pre-approval. Individual Council member pre-approved purchases and travel are reimbursable by MNBC according to approved policy.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW:** The Terms of Reference will be revised as appropriate.

# **The Nature of Written Guidance**

**MNBC CONSTITUTION**

**MÉTIS NATION WOMEN'S ACT**

**MNBC BOARD POLICY**

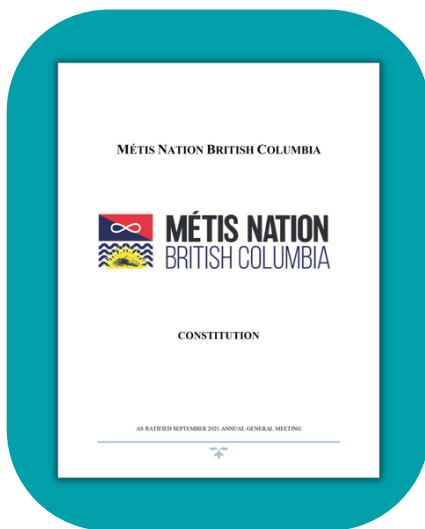
**MWBC POLICY**



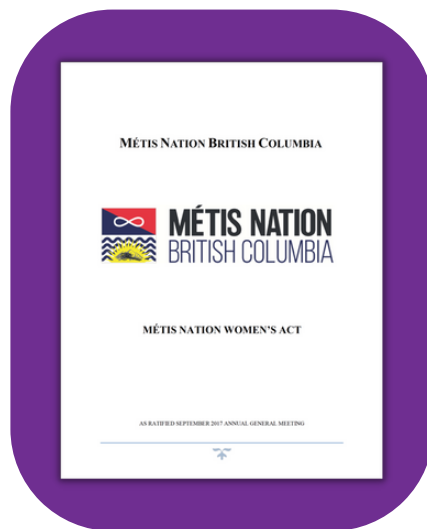
# The Nature of Written Guidance

The following MNBC Legislation is relevant to MWBC Governance:

## MNBC Constitution



## Metis Nation Women's Act



## MNBC Board Policy Manual



**CHECK OUT MNBC ACTS AT:**

**[WWW.MNBC.CA/ABOUT-MNBC/MNBCS-ACTS](http://WWW.MNBC.CA/ABOUT-MNBC/MNBCS-ACTS)**

**BY SEARCHING "ACTS" OR "BOARD IN A BOX" ON THE  
MNBC.CA WEBSITE**



# MNBC Constitution

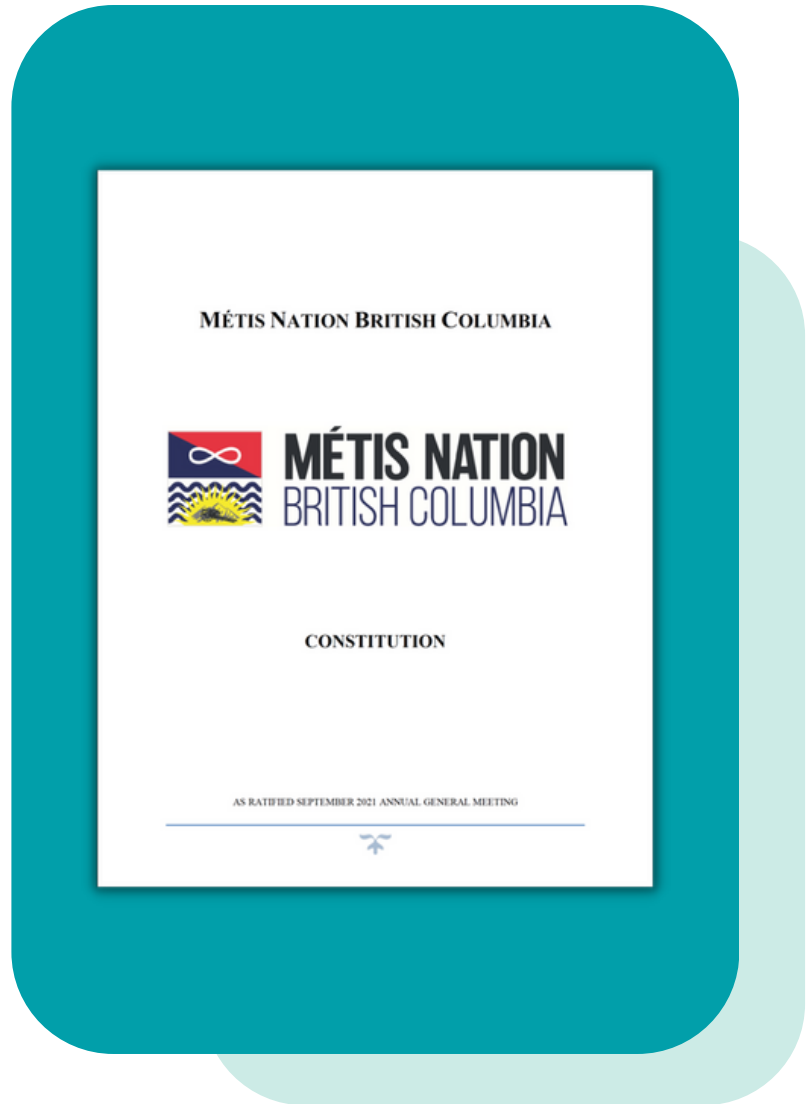
**ARTICLE 12**

**ARTICLE 29**

**ARTICLE 37**

**ARTICLE 41**

**ARTICLE 60**



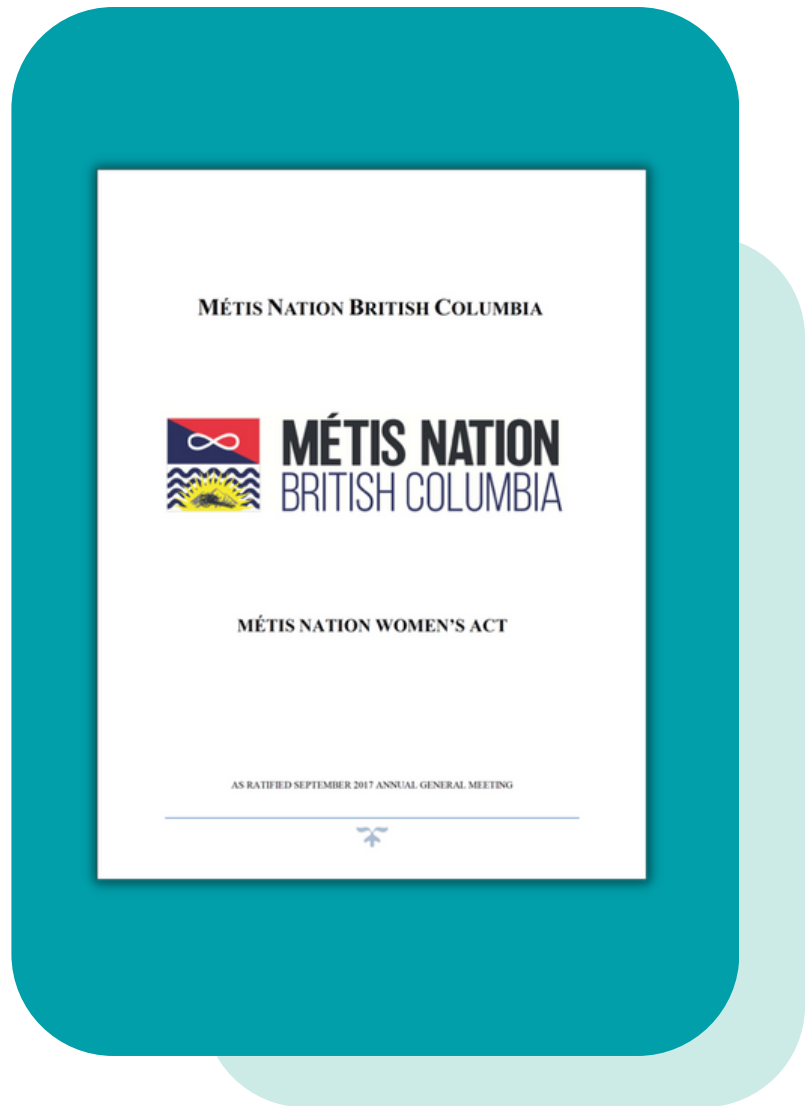
**[Link to MNBC Constitution](#)**

# Métis Nation Women Act

**ARTICLE 4**

**ARTICLE 5**

**ARTICLE 6**



**[Link to Métis Nation Women's Act](#)**

# MNBC Board Policy

**POLICY A-0** STRATEGIC DIRECTION

**POLICY B-0** STRUCTURE, ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**POLICY B-6** OATH OF ALLEGIANCE, CONFIDENTIALITY, & CONDUCT

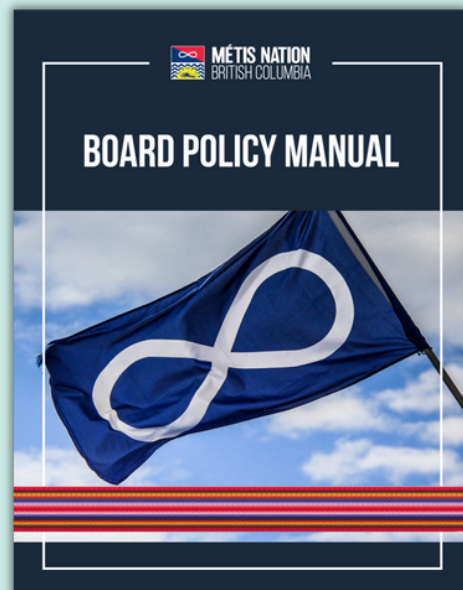
**POLICY C-0** NATION COMMUNICATIONS

**POLICY C-1** SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE NATION

**POLICY D-0** BOARD MEETINGS

**POLICY H-0** PUBLIC RELATIONS

**POLICY H-1** SOCIAL MEDIA AND NETWORKING



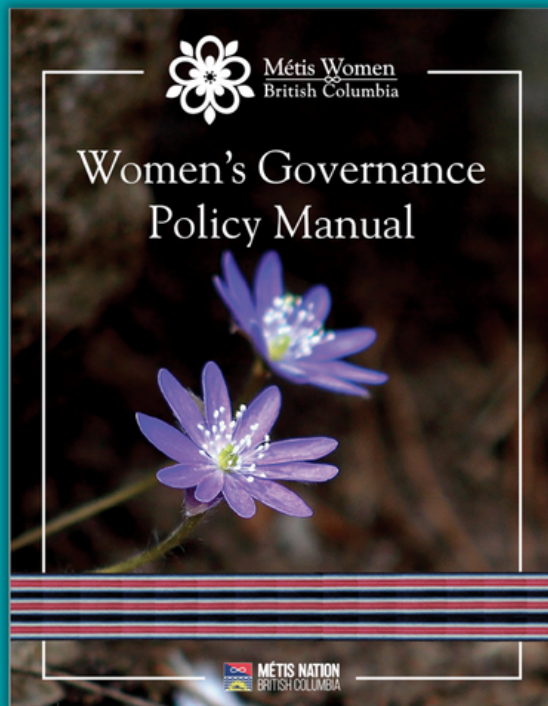
[Link to MNBC Board Policy Manual](#)

# MWBC Women's Governance Policy Manual





# MWBC Women's Governance Policy



[Link to MWBC Women's Policy Manual](#)

# Key Considerations



# MWBC Mandate

The MWBC is the elected voice for all the Métis women in British Columbia. The MWBC is entrusted to enhance and empower the rights of Métis women. The MWBC is also entrusted to ensure, by working with the MNBC and its recognized affiliates, that Métis women's aspirations are included at the community, regional, provincial, and national level to promote the social, economic, cultural, and political well-being of all Métis women.

- Policy 510 MWBC Strategic Direction and Mandate



# MWBC Mission Statement

The Métis Women of British Columbia have an agenda of an open heart. As MWBC members, we respect and trust in the process. We encourage respectful relationships, principles and procedures.

Policy 510 MWBC Strategic Direction and Mandate



# Guiding Objectives and Principles

The MWBC is committed to promoting opportunities for Métis women to share their skills and accomplishments and to achieve their full potential.

The MWBC will advocate on behalf of all Métis women and support them in:

- maintaining their pride in who they are;
  - retaining the culture, language, and traditions of the Métis people;
  - nurturing healthy families and communities through sustaining a healthy lifestyle;
  - respecting the diversity and uniqueness of all Métis people;
  - honouring our Elders and Knowledge Keepers and valuing their knowledge; and
  - managing and preserving our natural resources for future generations.
- Policy 510 MWBC Strategic Direction and Mandate (page 3)



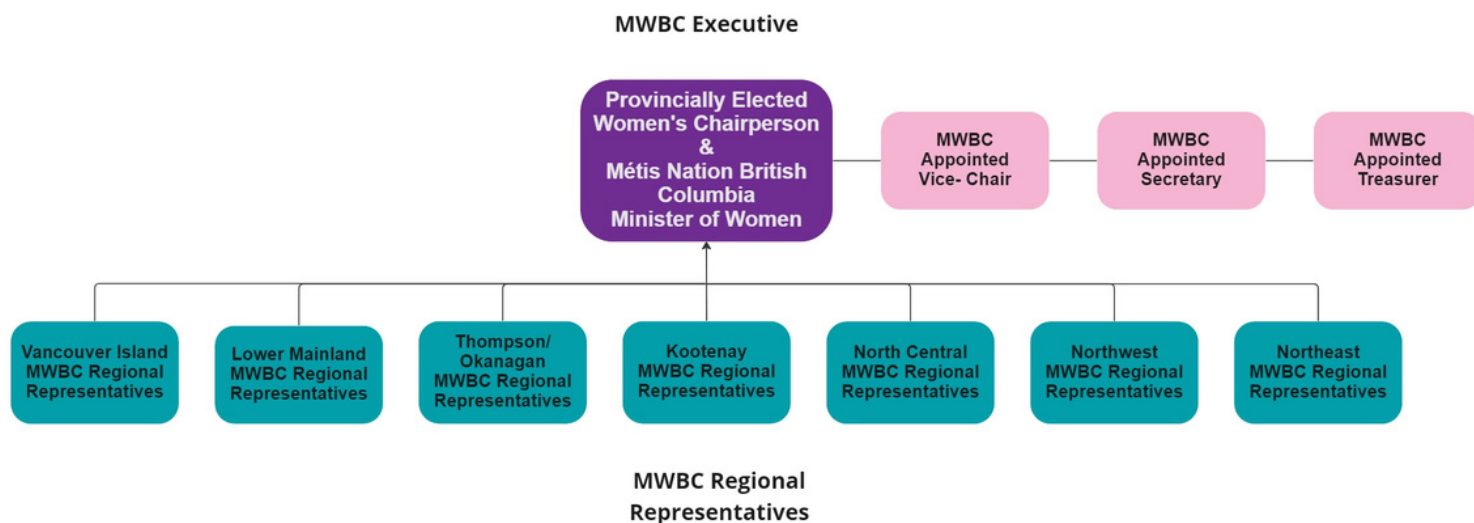


# MWBC Governance Council Structure

One elected Regional Women's Representative from each of the seven MNBC regions, three of whom serve as vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer.

A provincially elected chairperson who holds the position of MNBC Minister of Women and Gender Equity and sits on the MNBC Board of Directors.

The regional representatives and the provincially elected chairperson are known collectively as "the MWBC Provincial Council."



# Authority

## Gaudry shares that traditional Métis authority:

- rested in families, who were self-owning entities
- temporarily elevate[d] leaders from among themselves, and then return to their component parts
- temporarily invested in large-scale buffalo hunts
- create[d] new settlement-based governments for the Métis hivernants [winter visitors] living on the prairies
  - Kaa-tipeyimishoyaahk - 'We are those who own ourselves': A Political History of Métis Self Determination in the North West, 1830 – 1870 by Adam James Gaudry (2014, 75)

## In modern times, Métis Women BC (MWBC) Provincial Governance Council:

- *derives its authority from the MNBC Constitution, the MNBC Women's Act, and any related policies and procedures of the MWBC.*
- *is elected by the Métis Women of British Columbia to conduct the affairs of the MWBC. The Provincial Governance Council acknowledges that its role is a governance role.*
- *governs as a collective. Decisions are made by consensus and are confirmed by motions/resolutions at meetings of the Provincial Governance Council.*
- *commits to creating an opportunity for each member to be heard. The Provincial Governance Council utilizes traditional circles when engaging in collaborative decision-making*
  - Policy 521 MWBC Provincial Governance Council Authority

## Individual Council Member Authority:

- Individual councillors/representatives have no legal authority or stipulated power on their own. It is only the Council as a collective that has any power.
- All decisions of any significance, as well as direction to the staff must come from the Council and not from individual council members/representatives.




# MWBC Governance Council

## General Duties

The MWBC Governance Council has the responsibility to protect the interests, image and credibility of MWBC, and in accordance with all the applicable laws and policies (enacted by the government or MNBC itself).

General duties also include:

- Developing, utilizing and maintaining a strategic plan.
  - Recommending policy to guide the effective and efficient operation of the council.
  - Providing insights into programs and resource materials for use by MWBC and MNBC.
  - Attending all council and/or committee meetings.
  - Maintaining effective engagement with communities.
  - Maintaining effective engagement with Métis women and MNBC employees.
- 



# Representatives Roles


A REPRESENTATIVE ROLE IS NOT DIRECTLY A GOVERNANCE ROLE

- While members of the Council act as representatives of their Region, their primary job is to participate in policy-making and strategic planning that are in the interests of all the nation's women. Successful council members manage to balance the governance role with the representative role, participating in decision-making that benefits all women while representing the interests of their region.

**VS.**

# Constituency Roles

THE CONSTITUENCY ROLE IS A KEY AND PERSONAL INTERFACE BETWEEN COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE WOMEN THEY SERVE.

- The personal nature of the communications with individual constituents is part of the daily life of a council member and can be both rewarding and demanding. When constituents call, they are usually seeking solutions to a particular issue related and council members need to be aware of the steps they can take to clarify or help solve an issue.
- 

# Relational Governance Through Policy Development

Kelly Saunders and Janique Dubois remind us of the courage to stand firm in our beliefs just as “the women of Batoche were also not afraid to openly express their political views, “especially if they were contrary to those of their fathers or husbands” (Payment 1996, 27).”

- *Métis Politics and Governance in Canada (2019, 119).*

## Influences on Policy Development

Policies must be consistent with the mission, vision, and values .

Policies must also be consistent with federal and provincial legislation, government regulations, and MNBC Constitution and policies.

Other influences include:

- Decisions made by previous Councils
- Federal/Provincial government initiatives
- MNBC/MWBC requirements or initiatives
- Contractual arrangements with funders
- Negotiated agreements with unions





# **Remuneration/Workshop Facilitation Specific to MWBC Community Representatives**



# MWBC Representatives and Cultural Workshop Facilitation

There is a difference between receiving a salary for being a [MWBC Representative], and receiving a salary or payment for services provided to the society. Section 41 of the Societies Act allows for a [MWBC Representative] of a society to be contracted for employment or services, as long as a majority of directors are not under contract by the society. This only applies if the employment or service provided is in addition to their duties as a [MWBC Representative].

For example, if a Community decides that a [cultural workshop facilitator] is required, and this [cultural workshop facilitator] would be an employee of the Community, [an MWBC Representative] can serve as [a cultural workshop facilitator]. Because the role of [a cultural workshop facilitator] is beyond their duties as a [MWBC Representative], they would be permitted to receive a salary for this role, without requiring this to be permitted or approved under a “director salary” in the Community bylaws.

**[MWBC Representative] should be reminded that they are to recuse themselves from any discussion and decision made at a Board meeting about a contract or employment opportunity that directly concerns them.**

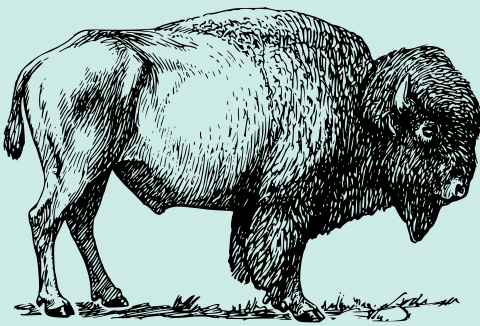
- Section 46 of [MNBC's Societies Act](#) (linked)

# Relational Governance



# Laws of the Hunt

1. No buffalo to be run on the Sabbath-day.
2. No party to fork off, lag behind, or go before, without permission.
3. No person or party to run buffalo before the general order.
4. Every captain, with his men, in turn, to patrol the camp and keep guard.
5. For the first trespass against these laws, the offender to have his saddle and bridle cut up.
6. For the second offence, the coat to be taken off the offender's back, and be cut up.
7. For the third offence, the offender to be flogged.
8. Any person convicted of theft, even to the value of a sinew, to be brought to the middle of camp, and the crier to call out his or her name three times, adding the word 'Thief,' at each time.

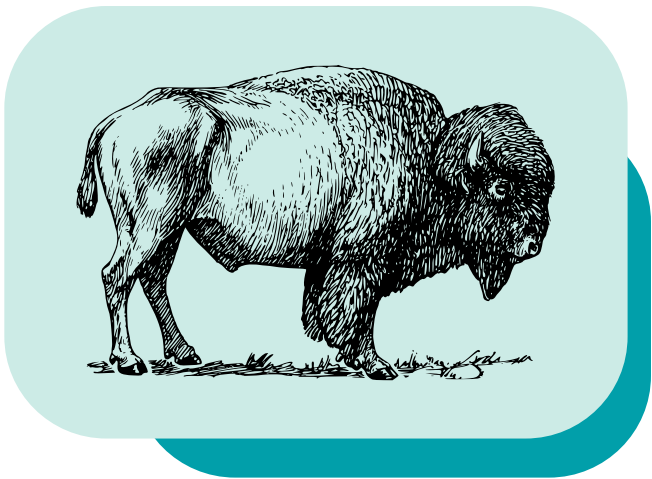


- Laws of the Hunt from "Red River Settlement: It's Rise, Progress, and Present State" by Alexander Ross (249-250).

# Buffalo Hunts to Modern Day Governance

Adam Gaudry states that the buffalo hunts are the basis of the Métis political and social organization; its laws ensuring democracy and collective wellbeing of caravan members by:

- working collectively in to ensure the success of the hunt;
- ensuring no individual would put their needs above others;
- sharing all resources equitably;
- and collectively ensure the safety and wellbeing of the camp.



- Kaa-Tipeyimishoyaahk: 'We Are Those Who Own Ourselves': A Political History of métis Self-Determination in the North-West, 1830-1870, University of Victoria, 2014 (p 101)



# Buffalo Hunts Consensus to Modern Day Governance

Saunders and Dubois highlight that consensus was used during buffalo hunts, as a practice of taking time for discussion and debate before electing the temporary chiefs and laws of the hunt.

- Métis Politics and Governance in Canada (2019, 91).

Modern Day Consensus:

- All contribute
- Everyone's opinions are encouraged and heard
- Differences are viewed as helpful
- Everyone has a chance to express their feelings
- Those who disagree indicate a willingness to consider
- All share the final decision
- All agree to take responsibility for implementation
- All agree to respect the final decision



# An Effective Council

The MWBC Provincial Governance Council governs as a collective. Decisions are made by consensus and are confirmed by motions/resolutions at meetings of the Provincial Governance Council.

The MWBC Provincial Governance Council commits to creating an opportunity for each member to be heard. The Provincial Governance Council uses traditional circles when engaging in collaborative decision-making.

Making an effective contribution in board governance requires a positive frame of mind and heart. It means:

- Acting with integrity using the lens of your true feelings, values, and commitments and expressing yourself with courage and consideration for the ideas and feelings of others.
- Operating with good intentions and assuming good intentions of others.
- Suspending judgement, to listen and hear your colleagues is always a good practice.

## Strengthening Our Ability for Good Governance

Kelly Saunders and Janique Dubois share wisdom for good governance “[t]he power held by women in Indigenous societies cannot solely be measured by the political positions they hold but should also take into account their role in the governance of the community as a whole.”



- Métis Politics and Governance in Canada (2019, 118).

# Pathways to Conflict Resolution



# Pathways to Conflict Resolution

Governance Council concerns should be brought to the MWBC Chairperson, who will support addressing the issue within the Governance Council or seek further information/clarification from MNBC management.

In the event that conflict within Governing bodies cannot be resolved within their respective Chartered Community Boards or Regional/Provincial Governance Boards issues can be brought forward to the Senate for investigation or advisement by contacting the Senate Clerk.

The Senate is the judicial arm of Métis Nation of British Columbia. It derives its powers from the Senate Act and is responsible for upholding the guiding principles in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Legislation.

[senateclerk@mnbc.ca](mailto:senateclerk@mnbc.ca)

Phone: 250-488-1509

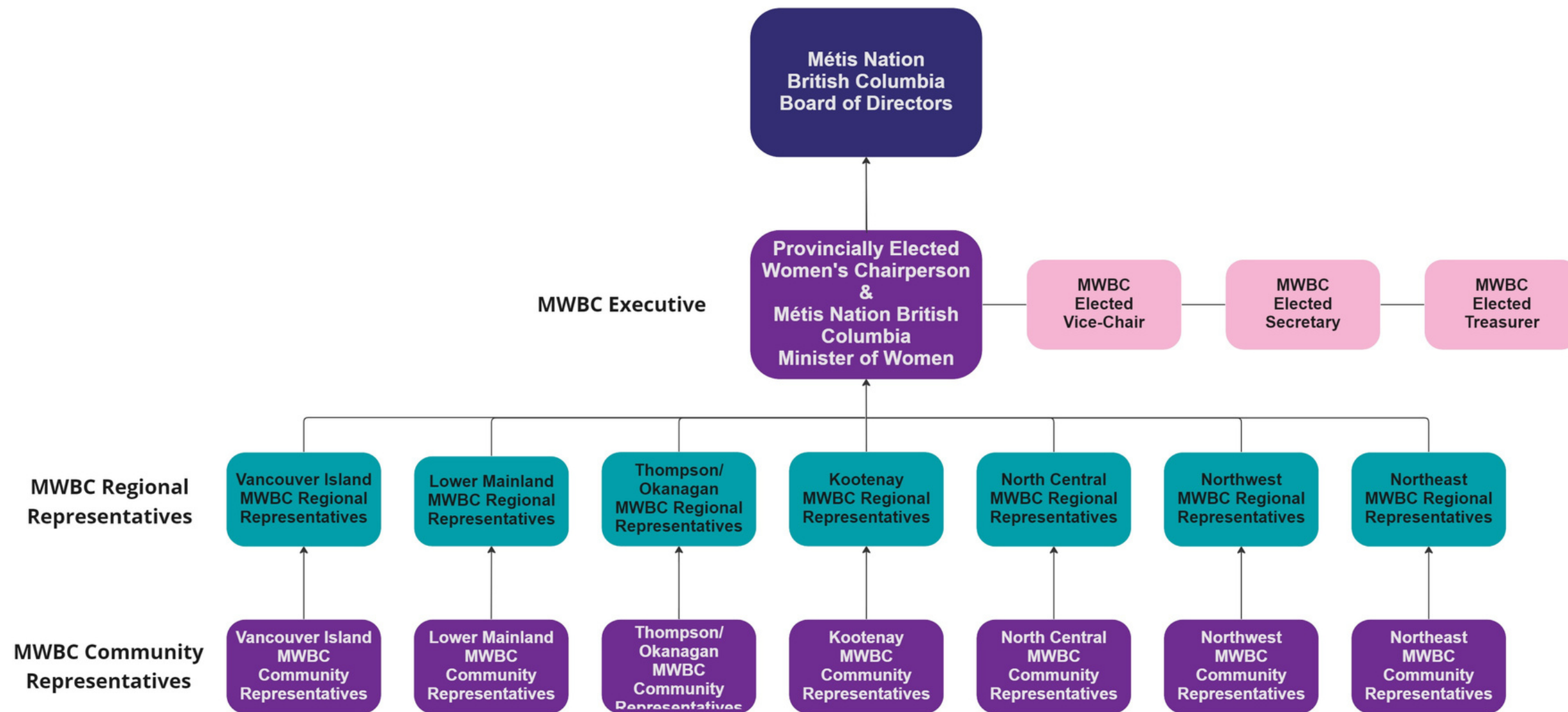


# Governance Pathways: Community to National Level

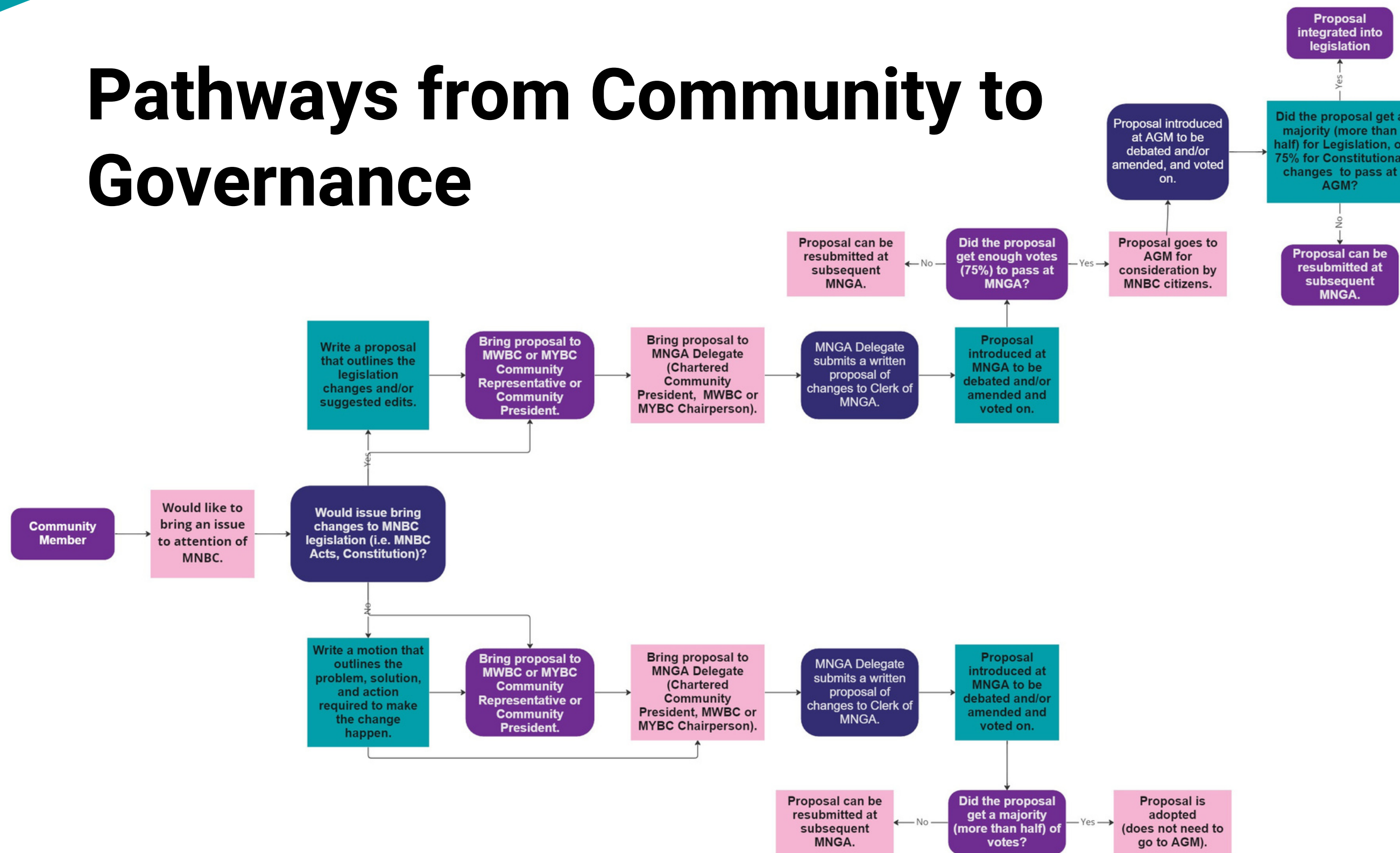




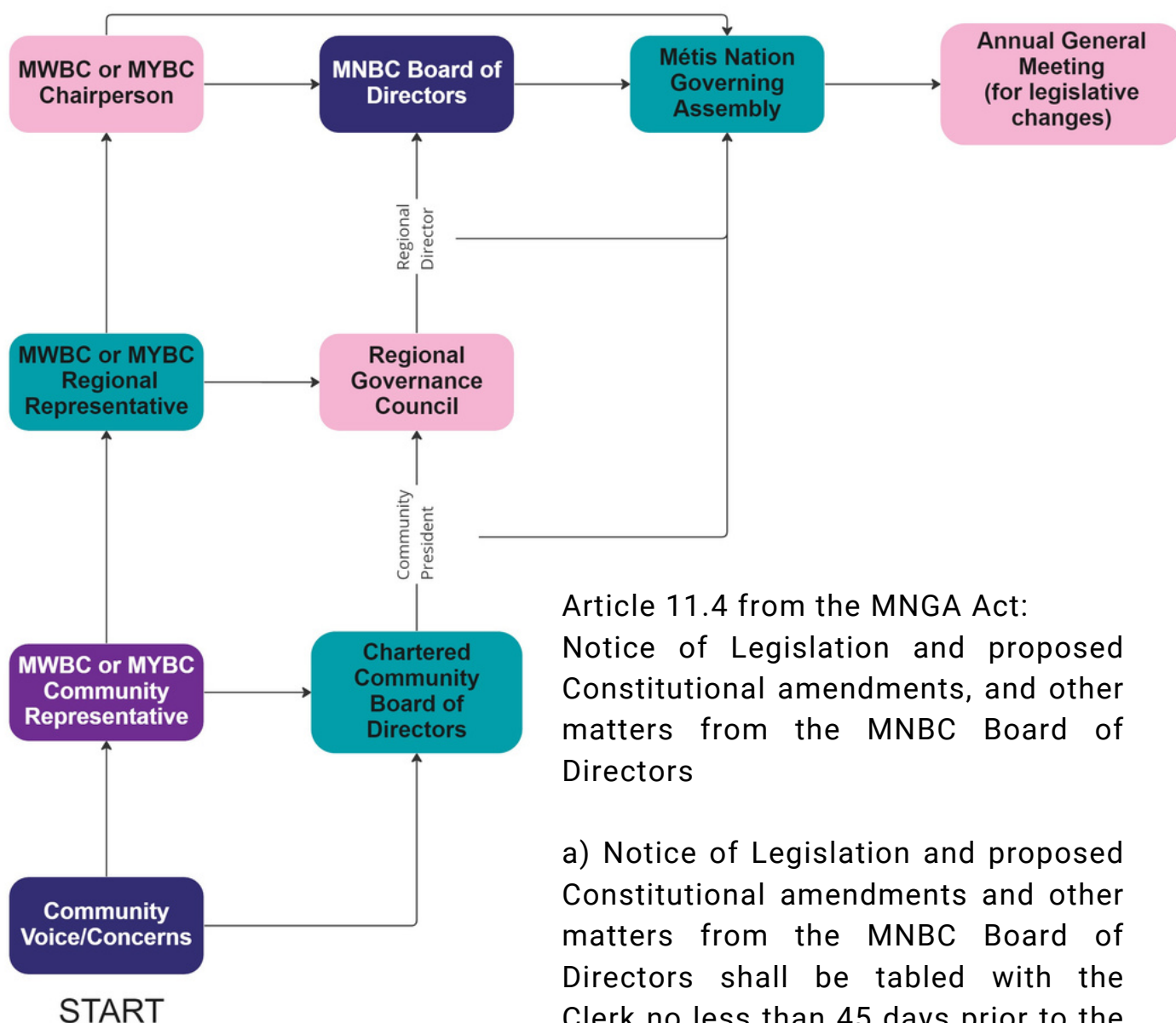
# MWBC Governance Pathways



# Pathways from Community to Governance



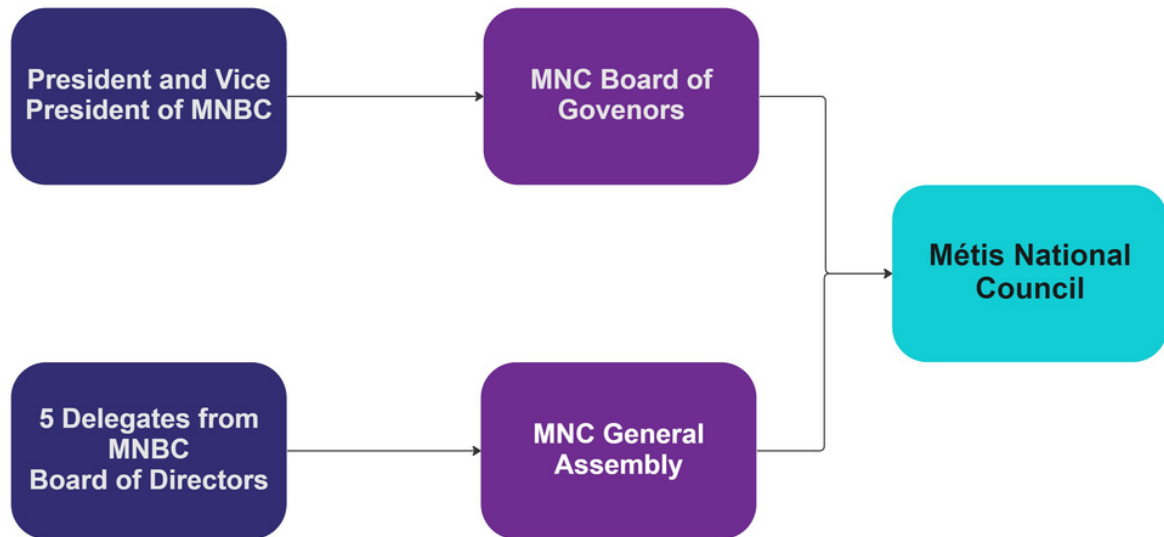
# Pathways from Community to Governance



Article 11.4 from the MNGA Act:  
Notice of Legislation and proposed Constitutional amendments, and other matters from the MNBC Board of Directors

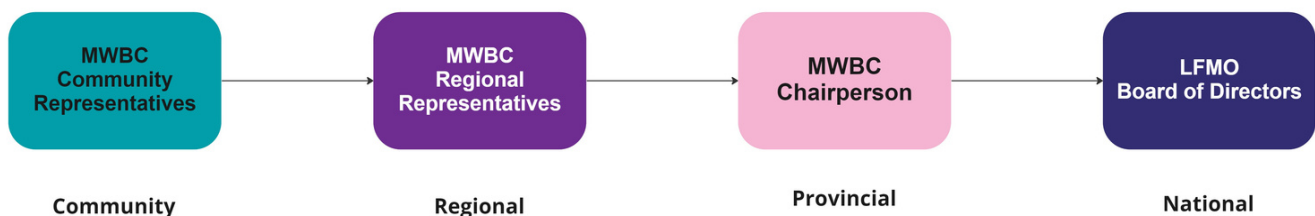
a) Notice of Legislation and proposed Constitutional amendments and other matters from the MNBC Board of Directors shall be tabled with the Clerk no less than 45 days prior to the MNGA meeting being held, and shall be distributed to the members of the MNGA no less than 40 days prior to the MNGA meeting being held.

# Pathways from MNBC to Métis National Council (MNC)



miro

# Pathways from MWBC to Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO)



miro

# Robert's Rules of Order Cheat Sheet







Robert's Rules of Order is a manual of parliamentary procedures that governs most organizations with a board of directors. MWBC Provincial Governance Council meetings are to be conducted using *Roberts Rules of Order* as a guideline.

### TYPES OF MOTIONS:

- ✓ **Main Motion:** Introduce a new item
- ✓ **Subsidiary Motion:** Change or affect how to handle a main motion (vote on this before main motion)
- ✓ **Privileged Motion:** Urgent or important matter unrelated to pending business
- ✓ **Incidental Motion:** Questions procedure of other motions (must consider before the other motion)

### EVERY MOTION HAS 6 STEPS

1. **Motion:** A member rises or raises a hand to signal the chairperson.
2. **Second:** Another member seconds the motion.
3. **Restate motion:** The chairperson restates the motion.
4. **Debate:** The members debate the motion.
5. **Vote:** The chairperson restates the motion, and then first asks for affirmative votes, and then negative votes.
6. **Announce the vote:** The chairperson announces the result of the vote and any instructions.

**TIME SAVING TIP!** If the board is in obvious agreement, the chairperson may state, "If there is no objection, we will adopt the motion to..." If no one objects then say, "Hearing no objections, (state the motion) is adopted." And then state any instructions. If a member objects, first ask for debate, then vote and then announce the vote.

### REQUESTING POINTS OF SOMETHING

Certain situations need attention during the meeting, but they don't require a motion, second, debate or voting. It's permissible to state a point during a meeting where the chairperson needs to handle a situation right away. Board members can declare a Point of Order, Point of Information, Point of Inquiry, or Point of Personal Privilege.

- ✓ **Point of Order:** Draws attention to a breach of rules, improper procedure, breaching of established practices, etc.
- ✓ **Point of Information:** A member may need to bring up an additional point or additional information (in the form of a non-debatable statement) so that the other members can make fully informed votes.
- ✓ **Point of Inquiry:** A member may use point of inquiry to ask for clarification in a report to make better voting decisions.
- ✓ **Point of Personal Privilege:** A member may use point of personal privilege to address the physical comfort of the setting such as temperature or noise. Members may also use it to address the accuracy of published reports or the accuracy of a member's conduct.

### TIPS AND REMINDERS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Robert's Rules of Order developed to ensure that meetings are fair, efficient, and democratic. The following tips and reminders will help council members engage in a successful and productive meeting while being mindful of themselves and each other.

- ✓ Follow the agenda to keep the Council moving toward its goals.
- ✓ The Council does its own work to maintain the flow of the meeting. by recognizing members who ask to speak.
- ✓ To speak a second time on the same motion or agenda item, members should yield to those who have not yet spoken on the motion or agenda item.
- ✓ When discussions get off-track, the Council is responsible for returning to the agenda.
- ✓ Each Council Member models courtesy and respect.
- ✓ Use motions and points of order to help develop the Council's skills in parliamentary procedure.
- ✓ Give each speaker undivided attention.
- ✓ Keep an emotional pulse on the discussion.
- ✓ Allow a consensus to have the final authority of the group.

Source: boardeffect.com





### Part 1 - Main Motions

These motions are listed in order of precedence. A motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.

\* indicates the section from Robert's Rules.

*	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2 <sup>ND</sup> ?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
21	Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
20	Take break	I move to recess for...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
19	Register Complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
18	Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
17	Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
16	Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
15	Limit of extend debate	I move that the debate be limited to...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
14	Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
13	Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
12	Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
11	Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
10	Bring business before assembly	I move that [or "to"]	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

### Part 2 - Incidental Motions:

No order of precedence. These motions arise incidentally and are decided immediately.

*	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2 <sup>ND</sup> ?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
23	Enforce Ruled	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	None
24	Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
25	Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
26	Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
27	Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
29	Demand a rising vote	I move for a rising vote	Yes	No	No	No	None
33	Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary Inquiry	Yes if urgent	No	No	No	None
33	Request for information	Point of information	Yes if urgent	No	No	No	None



## Part 3 – Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly:

No order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else is pending.

*	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2 <sup>ND</sup> ?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
34	Take matter from the table	I move to take from the table...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
35	Cancel previous action	I move to rescind...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or Majority with notice
37	Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority

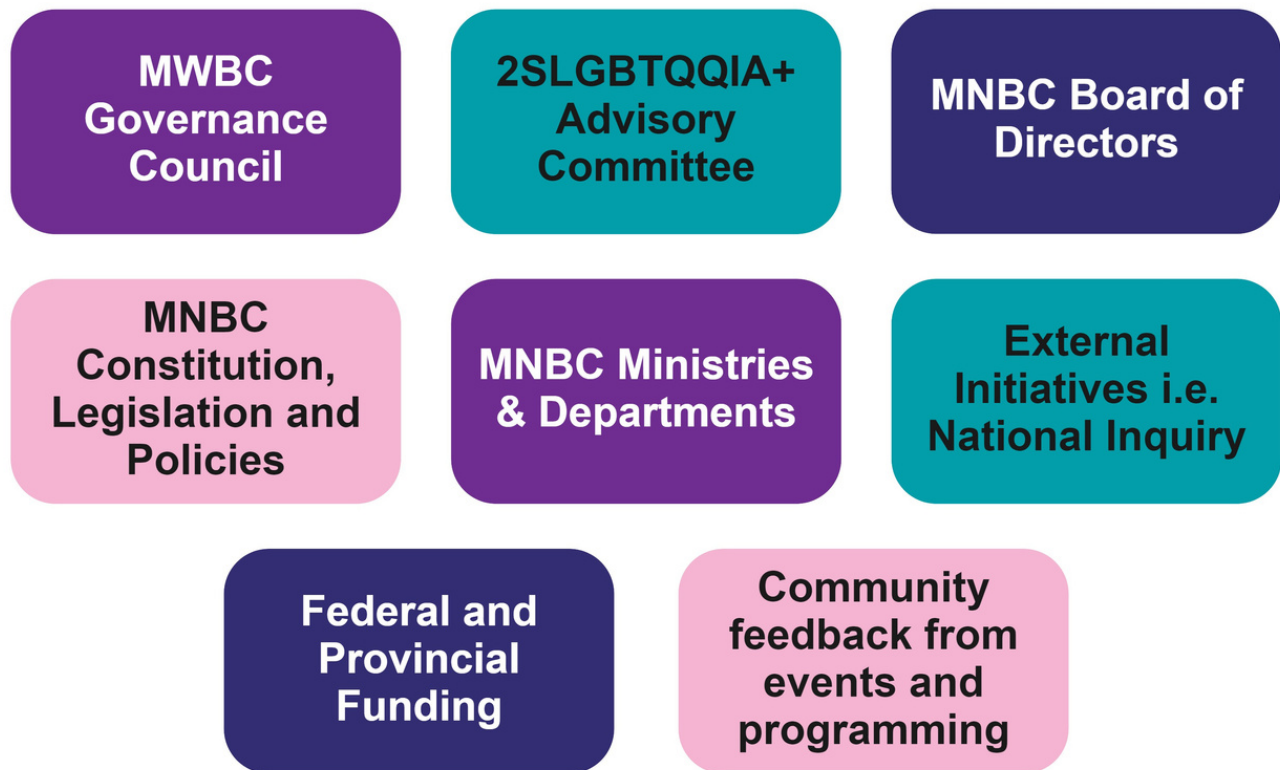
I. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised 12 Edition

## **Relationship with MNBC (the Organization)**



# Influences on the work of MNBC's Ministry of Women and Gender Equity

The work of MNBC's Ministry of Women and Gender Equity is informed by the following:



# Governance Roles

The purpose of MWBC Governance is:

- Focus on the "what"
- Provide leadership and direction
- Monitor progress toward the achievement of MWBC goals set out in the strategic plan.
- Know and represent Métis women's expectations, needs, concerns, and interests at a region and community level to inform Ministry programming and advocacy
- Develop and review MWBC governance policy, Mission, Vision and Values
- Act in the best interest of the MWBC and MNBC
- Establish the conditions and constraints that guide the work of MWBC
- Evaluate and assess MWBC meeting performance and effectiveness
- Creating a succession plan to build and maintain a sustainable and healthy council.

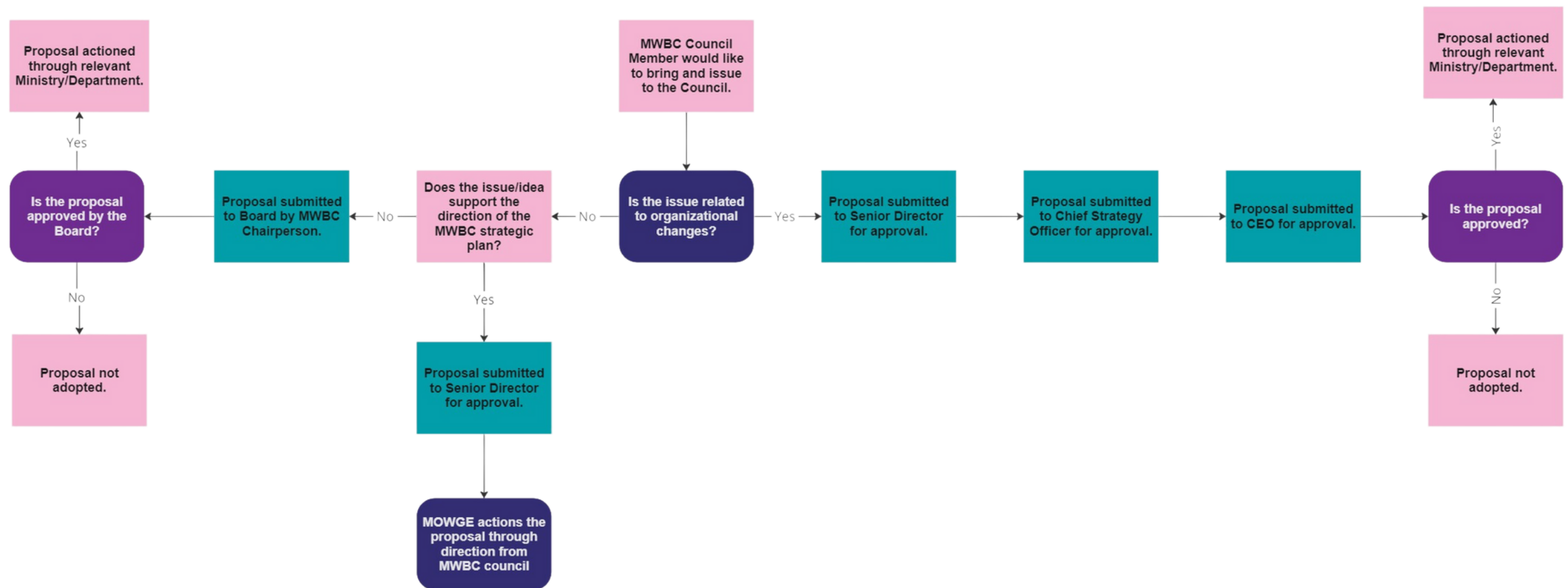
**VS.**

# Operational Roles

The purpose of the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity administration/staff is:

- Focus on the "how"
- Provide secretariat support MWBC Governance Council
- Develop and implement strategies and operational plans for achieving the goals and outcomes as identified in MNBC and MWBC strategic plans
- Integrate and advocate for Métis women's expectations, needs, concerns, interests and wants in operational programs and initiatives
- Manage and organize the internal workings of the Ministry
- Develop operational policies
- Hire, manage, supervise, evaluate, and terminate employment of Ministry staff
- Developing and maintain operational budgets
- Provide safe, secure, healthy work environment to support the work of MWBC
- Creating a succession plan to build and maintain a sustainable and healthy Ministry.


# Pathways from Governance to MNBC (the Organization)





# Directory





## **For information on the Chartered Communities in your Region visit:**

[www.mnbc.ca/citizens-culture/chartered-communities](http://www.mnbc.ca/citizens-culture/chartered-communities)

or visit the Chartered Communities tab at [mnbc.ca](http://mnbc.ca)

## **For information on services offered by MNBC visit:**

[www.mnbc.ca/work-programs/programs-services](http://www.mnbc.ca/work-programs/programs-services)

or contact MNBC:


Toll free: 1-800-940-1150

Phone: 604-557-5851

## **For IT support contact:**

[itsupport@mnbc.ca](mailto:itsupport@mnbc.ca)





# **For more information contact your MWBC Regional Representative**

## **Region 1 Vancouver Island & Powell River:**

Fleurette Borsboom - [region1women@mnbc.ca](mailto:region1women@mnbc.ca)

## **Region 2 - Lower Mainland:**

Carmen Carriere - [region2women@mnbc.ca](mailto:region2women@mnbc.ca)

## **Region 3 - Thompson & Okanagan:**

Cheryl Dodman - [region3women@mnbc.ca](mailto:region3women@mnbc.ca)

## **Region 4 - Kootenays:**

Michele Morin - [region4women@mnbc.ca](mailto:region4women@mnbc.ca)

## **Region 5 - North Central:**

Laurie Todd - [region5women@mnbc.ca](mailto:region5women@mnbc.ca)

## **Region 6 - Northwest:**

Patricia Paulson - [region6women@mnbc.ca](mailto:region6women@mnbc.ca)

## **Region 7 Northeast:**

Carol Paynter - [region7women@mnbc.ca](mailto:region7women@mnbc.ca)

## **Provincial Women's Chair:**

Dr. Kate Elliott - [kelliott@mnbc.ca](mailto:kelliott@mnbc.ca)



# FAQ



## 1) What is my role as an MWBC Governance Council member/Regional Representative?

### On a regional level:

- Communicate with the women they serve (i.e., MWBC Women's Reps and regional women)
- Elevate women's voices on Regional Governance Councils

### On a provincial level:

- Elevate women's voices from across BC at the Provincial Governance Council
- MWBC Governance Council members primary job is to participate in policy-making and strategic planning that are in the interests of all the Nation's women.
- Work together as the Governance Council to elevate women's voices via the MWBC Chairperson to the Board of Directors, and at MNGA's.

### For more elaborate answers see:


#### MWBC Policy Manual

- Policy 540 - MWBC Provincial Governance Council Roles and Responsibilities

#### Section 5: Key Considerations

- MWBC Governance Council General Duties
- Representative Roles vs. Constituency Roles

## 2) What is the role of the MWBC Chairperson?

- Supports and ensures the effective governance of the MWBC.
  - Carries out the wishes of the MWBC Provincial Governance Council in relation to the strategic direction, and priorities of the MWBC.
  - Ensures the directions and or resolutions of the MWBC Governance Council are carried out.
  - Communicate MWBC updates to the MNBC's Board of Directors.
  - Inquires and addresses concerns from MWBC Governance Council in relation to MNBC the organization and its operation.
- 

### 3) How can I connect MWBC Community Reps and women in my Region?

- Chartered Community Presidents can connect you with elected MWBC Community Representatives.
- Gathering options may include in-person or virtually; your MNBC email gives you access to Teams.

**For IT support contact:** [itsupport@mnbc.ca](mailto:itsupport@mnbc.ca)

### 4) How is communication from MOWGE to MWBC Community Representatives distributed?

Two communication pathways include:

- To MWBC Regional Reps who will forward the emails to MWBC Community Reps directly.
- To Community Presidents through the Community Services Newsletter.


### 5) Are my travel and meeting expenses covered by MNBC?

With pre-approval from MOWGE management, expenses related to travel/meeting expenses (mileage, incidentals, meals, etc.) specific to MWBC Governance are covered through MNBC funding.

**Contact:** [mowge@mnbc.ca](mailto:mowge@mnbc.ca)

### 6) Does MWBC Governance Council direct the work of MOWGE?

No, MOWGE's work has many influences which include (but are not limited to):

- MNBC Constitution, Legislation, and Policies;
  - MWBC Governance Council;
  - 2SLGBTQQA+ Advisory Committee;
  - MNBC Board of Directors;
  - MNBC Ministries and Departments;
  - External Initiatives (I.e., National Inquiry);
  - Federal and Provincial Funding, and;
  - Community Feedback from events and programming.
- 



## 7) How does MOWGE staff provide support for MWBC?

- Submit pre-approved travel and meeting expenses for MWBC;
- Elevate MWBC voices throughout MNBC organizationally (alongside MWBC Chairperson);
- Seek funding opportunities to support the direction of MNBC, MWBC, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Strategic Goals;
- Coordinate projects, and;
- Provide secretariat support for MWBC (i.e., minutes, agendas).

### **For more elaborate answers see:**


Section 11: Relationship with MNBC (the Organization)

- MWBC Governance Council General Duties
- Governance Roles vs. Operational Roles

## 8) How do I find out what programs and services MNBC offers?

Visit: [www.mnbc.ca/work-programs/programs-services](http://www.mnbc.ca/work-programs/programs-services)

or contact MNBC at 1-800-940-1150 (toll-free) or 604-557-5851



# Community Care





# Kaa-wiichihitoyaahk

## "We Take Care of Each Other"

**How do we care for ourselves and each other while we do this good work?**

MWBC Representatives words of wisdom from winter 2023 Governance Training:

"It's easy to wear many hats when there is so much work to be done. Assess what your capacity is and what needs to be passed on without shame or guilt, and a good heart.


"Acknowledging when your plate is full, and asking how full you want it to be.  
Learn how to say no, so we can do the things we say yes to with attention and care.

"Reach out to other women with support, we cannot judge anybody else. Have love and compassion for each other. And acknowledge capacity to support others."

"Don't turn judgement on ourselves."

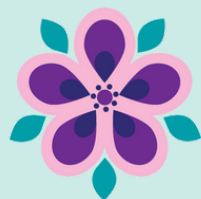
"Don't be afraid to ask questions."

"Learn how to say no, so we can do the things we say yes to with attention and care."



# Resources

- Gaudry, Adam James Patrick. Kaa-Tipeyimishoyaahk: 'We Are Those Who Own Ourselves': A Political History of métis Self-Determination in the North-West, 1830-1870, University of Victoria, 2014, Accessed 7 Sept. 2022.
- Lindsay, Dupré. “The Aunties Who Run the Place.” Owning Ourselves Zine, 2022, pp. 34–35.
- Saunders, Kelly, and Janique Dubois. Métis Politics and Governance in Canada. UBC Press, 2019.



Métis Women  
British Columbia