



MAY 29- JUNE 1, 2025
SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, RICHMOND, BC

2025 MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

KISHCHEE TEY MO'YAWN AEN LI MICHIF WE'YAWN

PROUD TO BE MÉTIS



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA



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ANTHEMS

O CANADA

O Canada!
Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

MÉTIS ANTHEM

We are proud to be Métis, watch our Nation rise again.
Never more forgotten people, we're the true Canadian.
In the forest, on the river, and across the western plain,
As the white man journeyed westward to the land of the Indian.
A new race was created, a new nation rose up strong.
Hardship as its destiny, and its curse to not belong.
We are proud to be Métis, watch our Nation rise again.
Never more forgotten people, we're the true Canadian.
For this newest generation, and the future ones to come.
With the past to motivate us, it will help to keep us strong.
As we build the Métis Nation, as we watch it rise again,
Our past loss is motivation, to inspire our future gain.
We are proud to be Métis, watch our Nation rise again.
Never more forgotten people, we're the true Canadian.
We are proud to be Métis, watch our Nation rise again.
Never more forgotten people, we're the true Canadian.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Respectfully Submitted:

DEBRA FISHER



As we move forward into 2025, I'm proud to share the continued progress and success of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Board of Directors. Our ongoing efforts to advance the rights and interests of Métis citizens remain a top priority, and we have seen significant strides in both our internal operations and in our advocacy work with government. Children are at the center of all our work. We weave them into every conversation and decision with provincial and federal governments, as they belong to us - their nation, MNBC.

A major highlight in recent months was our successful lobby days in Victoria. These days of focused advocacy were a powerful opportunity to meet with various ministries and engage in meaningful, results-driven discussions. During these meetings, we highlighted key issues, including cultural preservation and economic development, which continue to be critical for our community. The response from the government was overwhelmingly positive, demonstrating a growing recognition of the Métis as a vital and distinct group within the province of British Columbia.

This success is a testament to the strength and dedication of our intragovernmental team at MNBC. Their strategic, focused approach to advocacy has been instrumental in ensuring that every conversation with government is

well-informed, effective, and aligned with our community's priorities. Thanks to their hard work, we have been able to build stronger relationships, gain real traction on critical issues, and secure a greater presence for the Métis within governmental discussions.

A particularly notable outcome of our efforts is the increasing awareness within government of the unique rights and role of the Métis people. As the only recognized governing provincial body representing Métis citizens in British Columbia, MNBC continues to assert our identity as a distinct and essential part of the province. Our advocacy for a Métis-specific approach to policy and decision-making remains a key focus, as we work to ensure that the unique needs and experiences of Métis citizens are reflected in government policies.

As your Secretary, I remain committed to supporting the Board, ensuring accurate minute-taking for in-camera meetings, and maintaining the highest level of detail and confidentiality as required. My role also includes coordinating ongoing efforts to ensure that our communities' voices are heard and that we continue to move forward with strength and unity. I remain steadfast in my commitment to ensuring that our rights are protected, our interests are prioritized, and that our people's voices continue to shape the future of our province.



Board Meetings: September 2024 to present

September 22, 2024	Board Meeting
September 26, 2024	Special Board Meeting
October 15, 2024	Board Meeting
October 18, 2024	Special Board Meeting
November 12, 2024	Board Meeting
November 22, 2024	Special Board Meeting
November 30 – December 1, 2024	MNBC MNGA
December 9, 2024	Board Meeting
January 21-22, 2025	Board Meeting
February 9, 2025	Special General Meeting
February 24, 2025	Board Meeting
March 1-2, 2025	MNBC MNGA
March 11, 2025	Special Board Meeting
March 19, 2025	Special Board Meeting
March 25-26, 2025	Board Meeting
April 28, 2025	Board Meeting (Scheduled)
May 28-29, 2025	Board Meeting (Scheduled)
May 30 – June 1, 2025	MNBC MNGA (Scheduled)

In addition to these Board Meeting dates, the Board Executive meets weekly.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Respectfully Submitted:

PATRICK HARRIOTT



OPENING STATEMENT

We respectfully present this report with an acknowledgment of the land, communities, and shared purpose that guide our work at MNBC Headquarters.

Our work takes place on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, specifically the Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, Katzie, Semiahmoo, and Tsawwassen First Nations. We extend our deepest gratitude for their stewardship of this land since time immemorial. In addition, MNBC recognizes the 39 Métis Chartered Communities we proudly serve across British Columbia.

Guided by the principle of *Kâ Isi Nâtama Ôta Ati Nîkân* (Our Way Forward), this report reflects MNBC's commitment to:

Transparency and accountability through clear, accessible financial reporting.

Data-driven decision-making ensures strategic use of resources.

Economic development and reconciliation in collaboration with our partners and the chartered communities.

Included in this report are the following:

- A **financial summary** of MNBC's overall fiscal position.
- Details on **sources of revenue**, including federal/provincial funding, grants, and own-source income.

- A breakdown of **major investments** in infrastructure and programs.
- An overview of the **community impact** of our financial decisions, with examples of key initiatives across the province.
- A **future outlook** highlighting new funding opportunities and upcoming projects.
- **Recommendations and next steps** to further strengthen financial governance and sustainability.

This report will provide a clear picture of MNBC's financial management in support of the citizens across our Nation, reinforcing our long-standing commitment to responsible financial stewardship and inclusive growth.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

This section provides an overview of MNBC's financial position for the fiscal 2024-25 reporting period, highlighting key revenue sources, major expenditures, and overall fiscal performance.

Through prudent financial management and strategic investments, MNBC continues to ensure that funding is effectively aligned with the needs and priorities of our Métis citizens across British Columbia.

Financial Strategy

- Strategic alignment
- Strong cash flow
- Diversified revenue
- Reserve building
- Community investment

Financial Principles

- Transparency
- Stewardship
- Data-driven decisions
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Compliance

Plans that Influence Financial Decisions

- Strategic Plan
- Ministry Workplans
- Community Input
- Infrastructure Planning
- Funding Opportunities
- Risk Management

REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

<u>Funding Agency</u>	<u>Fiscal 20-21</u>	<u>Fiscal 21-22</u>	<u>Fiscal 22-23</u>	<u>Fiscal 23-24</u>	<u>Fiscal 24-25</u>
Federal	\$43.7M	\$46.9M	\$58.4M	\$62.4M	\$74.3M
Provincial, Infrastructure & Other	\$10.4M	\$16.2M	\$28.5M	\$13.8M	\$40.4M
Total	\$54.1M	\$63.1M	\$86.9M	\$76.2M	\$114.7M

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Expenditures

Infrastructure Investments by Region

<u>Region</u>	<u>Investment</u>
Vancouver Island & Powell River	\$3.2M
Lower Mainland	\$2.2M
Thompson Okanagan	\$0.3M
Kootenays	\$2.3M
North Central	\$0.0M
Northwest	\$3.7M
Northeast	\$3.3M
Provincial	\$0.9M

Social Investments by Region

<u>Region</u>	<u>Investment</u>
Vancouver Island & Powell River	\$7.8M
Lower Mainland	\$16.3M
Thompson Okanagan	\$5.9M
Kootenays	\$2.6M
North Central	\$2.9M
Northwest	\$1.4M
Northeast	\$2.5M
Provincial	\$5.4M

Direct Payments Made to Chartered Communities

<u>Support Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Program Funding	\$1.15M
Event Funding	\$385K
Chartered Community Project Proposal Funding	\$373K
Community Cultural Initiatives, Capacity and Governance Funding (CCICG)	\$816K

Direct Payments in Support of Chartered Communities

<u>Support Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Directors' and Officers' Insurance	\$36.6K
Commercial General Liability Insurance	\$51.1K
Chartered Community Cell Phones	28.1K

GRANT AND SPONSORSHIPS

A comprehensive funding overview is in the process of being created, which will include a plain language summary of our funding agreements and projects.

When exploring funding options for projects and initiatives, it's important to understand the key differences between **grants** and **contribution agreements**, particularly when it comes to reliability, competitiveness, and long-term sustainability. Grants are not guaranteed funding. With success rates between 10–30%, they are highly competitive, and even strong applications may be declined. Decisions can take 6+ months, so applicants must be prepared to move forward without funding and have backup plans in place. Grants are not long-term or stable sources of funding (unless multi-year agreements). They are usually one-time, tightly restricted, and meant for specific purposes. In contrast, contribution agreements are more structured and reliable. They typically involve negotiated terms, clearer expectations, and can provide more consistent, multi-year funding, making them better suited for long-term planning and sustainable projects.

Our goal is to ensure the highest and best

Grant Pipeline (as of 04/22/25)

- Identified: \$6.6M
- Pending: \$6.2M
- Approved: \$19.2M

Sponsorship Overview (as of 05/01/25)

- FY24-25: \$146K
- FY25-26 (to date): \$68.2K

use of financial resources while enhancing communication, collaboration, and transparency across MNBC. The Grants & Capacity Development team is focused on identifying innovative solutions to meet funding needs and uncover new opportunities. By centralizing and standardizing funding processes, we are committed to strategically pursuing grants, sponsorships, and own-source revenue (OSR) to maximize value, build strong partnerships, and reduce reliance on subsidized operations. Finally, we are developing a sophisticated, streamlined system to manage acquired and generated financial resources, ensuring greater efficiency, reduced risk, and increased government capacity.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Canada Youth Forums

Lacrosse and Active Living Forum, Ministry of Sport & Active Living

The Ministry of Sport & Active Living received \$30K in funding from the Federal Government to host the Lacrosse and Active Living Forum held March 14-17 in Langley, BC, brought together 29 Métis youth aged 14-25 from BC and Saskatchewan for a 4-day culturally immersive and interprovincial sport and active living event. This project holds immense significance in celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Métis, linked with Canada's national sporting game of Lacrosse, while also spotlighting the diverse cultural landscape of British Columbia. Beyond cultural celebration, the initiative fostered collaboration with neighboring Métis governments and the National Lacrosse League.

Métis Nursing Subsidy

Ministry of STEPS & Health

The Ministry of STEPS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, received funding to provide 156 bursaries worth \$5,000 to Métis Nursing students who meet eligibility criteria to pursue educational certification like Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, Care Aid, and bridging programs. This can be offered in addition to any supports currently being accessed through Métis Nation British Columbia. The subsidy will help bridge learners at a less clinical level to nursing, helping make access to education more equitable. Further, with an increase in Métis presence within the healthcare field, it will create more space for Indigenous ways of knowing and doing. Providing Métis citizens with the opportunity and support to pursue careers

within the healthcare system will work towards health equity and reconciliation by bringing critical practices of cultural safety and equitable care.

Fort St. John Child Care Development

Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education received \$250,000 in funding from the South Peace Mackenzie Trust to help offset the costs of the childcare development in Fort St. John. The Ministry of Education is partnering with Fort St. John Métis Society to develop a culturally relevant, quality childcare program for Métis, First Nations, and Inuit children and families residing in Fort St. John and the surrounding area. This project involves constructing a wood-frame childcare facility with 49 spaces for children from birth to age six.

Community Food Action Initiative

Ministry of Environment

The Ministry of Environment received \$79,500 in funding from the Interior Health Authority to support communities in Regions 4 and 5, along with the Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association. Through the CFAI funding, Chartered Communities engaged in a variety of learning opportunities focused on nutrition, cooking, food cultivation, and local food systems. Initiatives such as community kitchens and gardens led to the most significant improvements in food knowledge and practical skills. These projects also enhanced access to nutritious food, increased participants' confidence in making healthy food choices, and promoted overall community well-being. In addition, the initiatives fostered social connections, helping to reduce isolation and build stronger support networks.

Mission Child Care Development

Ministry of Education

MNBC has received \$13.9 million in federal funding since 2022 through B.C.'s Ministry of Education and Child Care to create five new childcare facilities that cater to the cultural needs of Métis families. The new centres, located in Kelowna, Mission, Port Alberni, Terrace, and Vernon, will ensure children receive care and education that respects and integrates Métis traditions and culture. The total cost for this specific project was \$2.83 million.

The Growing Roots Childcare Centre is part of this project, and the grand opening took place on February 14, 2025, has a capacity for 24 spaces for Métis children in the Fraser Valley region.

Port Alberni Child Care Development Groundbreaking

Ministry of Education

In collaboration with the Pacific Rim School District, MNBC officially broke ground on January 9th to construct 34 new childcare spaces in Port Alberni, dedicated to serving Métis families and children in the region. The groundbreaking ceremony was led by the Tseshah First Nation, who maintain a strong partnership with the school district and play a key role in supporting the initiative.

Spring Break Supplement

Ministry of Education

The Métis Winter and Spring Break Supplement is offered through the Métis Child Care Navigation and Support Program, for families with Métis children school age, entering kindergarten to 12 years old. This funding is to help Métis families with the cost of school break programs – these

are inclusive of Winter and Spring break. The Winter and Spring Break Supplement will not exceed a maximum of \$500.00 per child per school year.

A total of 91 Metis families accessed this program during the fiscal year, resulting in a total of \$31,091 disbursed throughout BC.

FUTURE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Plans for Sustainability

Centralization:

As MNBC moves toward a centralized model to enhance operational efficiency, reduce redundancy, and streamline service delivery across MNBC, centralization will support long-term sustainability by strengthening relationships, enhancing communications government-wide, improving financial management, and creating scalable systems (i.e., Procurement, funding, reporting, audits, etc.).

Cost Savings — Procurement, Inventory, and Storage Strategy:

A comprehensive procurement and inventory management strategy is being developed to achieve cost savings through:

- Bulk purchasing and consolidated vendor contracts.
- Standardized inventory management across sites.
- Optimization of internal storage capacity and external logistics solutions.
- Efficiencies with RFXs across all Ministries.
- Sponsorship for MNBC programming and initiatives.



External Storage and Logistics Strategy:

MNBC is implementing a hybrid storage and logistics approach to:

- Improve resource accessibility and distribution efficiency.
- Reduce storage costs through centralized internal facilities and selective external partnerships.
- Support emergency and rapid deployment needs with a reliable supply chain model.

Grant Policy:

This policy will enhance accountability, increase a comprehensive funding repository, and ensure alignment with MNBC's strategic priorities. Approved by the Board in March 2025.

New Opportunities

Expansion of Own Source Revenue (OSR)

Streams:

In addition to the development of the MNBC Marketplace and the trading post, MNBC is actively identifying new OSR opportunities within operational activities. An example includes launching a fee-for-service model for cultural training.

Strategic Resource Optimization:

Through the centralization and standardization of purchasing, resource allocation, and funding, MNBC will strategically identify opportunities for resource optimization and the adoption of multi-functional tools and products.

Funding Management System:

To support sustainability, MNBC has developed a sophisticated, centralized system to manage acquired and generated funding with the following goals:

- Increase operational efficiency.

- Reduce financial and compliance risks.
- Build internal capacity to sustain and scale successful initiatives.

Upcoming Projects

MNBC Marketplace: A centralized internal purchasing hub and sales platform designed to support all merchandise procurement, streamline internal purchasing for all staff, provide transparency and controls, and offer selected items for resale, where appropriate.

Bonfire — External Purchasing Platform: Launch of a new external purchasing platform featuring a Preferred Vendors List, enabling transparent, standardized procurement, analyzing vendor submissions, and strengthening relationships with suppliers that align with MNBC values and operational needs.

Sponsorship Pilot Project: The sponsorship team is piloting different approaches to working with corporate sponsors to help support a broader range of programs and services. Examples included, sponsors sending Youth to Back to Batoche Festival, and sponsoring of MNBC's existing programming and initiatives.

External Grant Training: A five-part Grant Training Module has been created, which guides participants through the entire grant lifecycle — from identifying funding opportunities and developing strong proposals to ensuring compliance and managing reporting requirements. This training resource is currently being adapted into Articulate 360, an interactive online platform that will enable users to complete the modules at their own pace and access the material as needed. It will be made accessible to Chartered Communities.



RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

As we close the fiscal year, we acknowledge the critical work completed by staff in finalizing year-end processing, ensuring that our financial records remain accurate, accountable, and in alignment with our Nation's standards. This foundation allows us to move into the next quarter with focus and clarity.

Our priorities in Q1 will align closely with Strategic Priority #4: Support Métis Chartered Communities, and Strategic Priority #5: Generate Core Capacity, Infrastructure, and Economic Development. We are committed to improving workplace efficiency, centralizing core functions where appropriate, and streamlining financial processes to reduce duplication and improve service delivery across all regions. These steps are essential to ensuring equity in support and funding distribution, recognizing the distinct needs of each Chartered Community.

Guided by the direction set at the most recent Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA), we are also working toward developing a more region-specific and robust financial package for the upcoming AGM. This will provide communities with the tools and flexibility to support local governance and economic development in ways that reflect their unique cultural and geographic realities. Through this, we aim to further strengthen local capacity while upholding the values of transparency, sustainability, and self-determination.

Rooted in our Métis worldview, these efforts reflect our commitment to collective progress, responsible stewardship, and preparing the path for the next generation. We look forward to continuing collaboration with our Chartered

Community leadership as we advance these shared goals.

CLOSING STATEMENT

As we look ahead, we reaffirm our commitment to financial stewardship rooted in the Métis values that guide our governance and decision-making. Financial leadership is more than oversight—it reflects who we are, how we serve, and the trust placed in us by Métis Chartered Communities and Citizens.

We honor *kwayes'kwât'sowin*—integrity—by remaining honest, dependable, and accountable in all that we do. We are committed to following through on our word, upholding transparency, and ensuring that every action we take reflects the collective good.

We draw on *ahtisihcikêwin*, the spirit of Métis innovation, to approach challenges with curiosity and creativity. As we refine financial processes and build capacity, we do so with forward-thinking solutions that honor our communities' diverse realities.

And through *sîpihkisôwin*, we remain resilient—courageous in the face of challenge, grounded by the strength of our ancestors, and unwavering in our pursuit of progress for future generations.

Together, we are building a strong, ethical, and sustainable financial future for our Nation.

Maarsii, for your continued trust, leadership, and partnership in this vital work.



MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

SUMMER 2025

DRAFT AGENDA
Times subject to change

MAY 30 TO JUNE 1, 2025

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, RICHMOND, BC



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Friday, May 30, 2025

Opening Ceremonies

1:00pm *Flag Party and Grand Entry*
Anthems (O Canada – Métis Ballad)

1:25pm First Nations Welcome – Musqueam
Opening Prayer – Senators

1:35pm **Greetings and Opening Remarks**
Dignitaries – In Person Greetings
President Mineault
Video Greetings

MNGA Agenda

2:00pm Order of Business
MNGA Clerk confirms quorum
Meeting called to Order

2:05pm **Nomination and Appointment of Co-Speaker**

2:10pm **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Draft Minutes of the Spring 2025 MNGA (March 1-2, 2025)

2:20pm **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:**

1. Secretary's Report
2. Treasurer's Report

2:30pm **CEO/SENIOR LEADERSHIP UPDATE**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Debate and decision on the resolution below was postponed from the Spring 2025 MNGA

2:45pm **UB-1: Citizenship Act Amendments: Adoption Clause**

4:00pm **MNGA Adjourns for Day 1**



MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

SUMMER 2025

DRAFT AGENDA
Times subject to change

MAY 30 TO JUNE 1, 2025

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, RICHMOND, BC



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Saturday, May 31, 2025

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 9:00am | MNGA Reconvenes
MNGA Clerk confirms quorum |
| | NEW BUSINESS |
| 9:05am | MOTION 1: 2025-2026 MNGA Meetings |
| 9:30am | RESOLUTION 1: Update to Strategic Partnerships and Synchronization of Métis Women, 2SLGBTQIA+, and Youth Legislation |
| 10:00am | RESOLUTION 2: Constitutional Updates for Clarity of Equality Rights |
| 10:30am | Health Break |
| 10:50am | MNGA Reconvenes
MNGA Clerk confirms quorum |
| 10:55am | RESOLUTION 3: Enhancing MVBC Representation at the MNGA and Clarifying the Relationship with MNBC Board of Directors |
| 11:30am | RESOLUTION 4: Amendments to the <i>Veterans Act</i> |
| 12:00pm | Lunch Break |
| 1:10 pm | MNGA Reconvenes
MNGA Clerk confirms quorum |
| 1:15pm | RESOLUTION 5: Support of Governance Succession Planning |
| 1:45pm | RESOLUTION 6: Honorarium for Community Representatives at MNBC Meetings |
| 2:15pm | RESOLUTION 7: Citizen Representation at the Board Level |
| 2:45pm | RESOLUTION 8: Reinstatement of MNBC Citizenship for Individuals Previously Removed for Not Meeting Métis Homeland Criteria under the <i>Citizenship Act</i> |
| 4:00pm | MNGA Adjourns for Day 2 |

MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY SUMMER 2025

DRAFT AGENDA
Times subject to change

MAY 30 TO JUNE 1, 2025

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, RICHMOND, BC



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sunday, June 1, 2025

9:00am	Board Q & A
11:45am	Closing Prayer - Senators
12:00pm	MNGA Adjourns

DRAFT

MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

MARCH 2025

HELD MARCH 1-2, 2025
BY VIDEOCONFERENCE



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

DRAFT MINUTES

Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) 2025 Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA), held March 1-2, 2025, by videoconference.

OFFICIAL DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:

Board of Directors

Walter Mineault, President
Melanie Allard, Vice President
Carmen Carriere, Chair, Métis Women of BC
Danielle Bergevin, Chair, Métis Youth of BC
Louis De Jaeger, Chair, Métis 2SLGBTQIA+ of BC
Patrick Harriott, Director, Region 1 (Vancouver Island and Powell River)
Allan Lavallee, Director, Region 2 (Lower Mainland)
Dean Gladue, Director, Region 3 (Thompson Okanagan)
Debra Fisher, Director, Region 4 (Kootenays)
Raynie Gervais, Director, Region 5 (North Central)
Susie Hooper, Director, Region 6 (Northwest)
Paulette Flamond, Director, Region 7 (Northeast)

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Region 1 – Vancouver Island

Tom Adams, MIKI'SIW Métis Association
Caitlin Bird, The Métis Nation of Greater Victoria Association
Joy Bremner, Mid Island Métis Nation
Zevier Brewer, Métis Nation Powell River
June Graham, Alberni Clayoquot Métis Association
Richard Lewis, Cowichan Valley Métis Association
Tyler Massee, North Island Métis Association

Region 2 – Lower Mainland

Rob Anderson, Vancouver Sea to Sky Métis Association
Anthony Krilow, Surrey Delta Métis Association
Lisa Shepherd, Golden Ears Métis Society

Greg Stanwood, North Fraser Métis Association
Pixie Wells, Fraser Valley Métis Society
Callum Robinson, Waceya Métis Society

Region 3 – Thompson Okanagan

Dylan Adam, Vermillion Forks Métis Association
David Allard, Salmon Arm Métis Association
Cheryl Dodman, Kelowna Métis Association
Ross Everatt, South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association
Betty Ann McDonnell, Nicola Valley and District Métis Society
Anya McVean, Two Rivers Métis Society (Saturday only)

Region 4 – Kootenays

Nicole Courson, West Kootenay Métis Society
Jeff Crozier, Rocky Mountain Métis Association
Pheb Goulet, Columbia Valley Métis Association
Monica Parkinson, Métis Nation Columbia River
Myrtle Servatius, Kootenay South Métis Society

Region 5 – North Central

Sylvia Desrocher, Prince George Métis Community Association
Marlene Swears, The Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association

Region 6 – Northwest

Bernadette Chaboyer, Northwest BC Métis Association
Alicia Fernando, Tri-River Métis Association
Joy Sundin, Prince Rupert and District Métis Society

Region 7 – Northeast

Alana Copeland, Fort St. John Métis Society
Valerie Paice, River of the Peace Métis Society

ALSO PRESENT:

Nicole Ludwig, MNGA Clerk
Dave Peltier, MNGA Deputy Speaker
Collette Trudeau, Chief Executive Officer, MNBC

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Diane Parsons, Recording Secretary

DAY ONE – March 1, 2025

OPENING PRAYER

Minister Debra Fisher provided an Opening Prayer.

OPENING REMARKS

Walter Mineault, MNBC President, acknowledged recent and upcoming events and commented on:

- Strategizing to minimize impacts of U.S. tariffs, a possible federal election, and an anticipated decrease in funding from provincial and federal governments
- Strengthening relationships with other Métis and First Nation groups and governments, the Province of British Columbia, and the federal government
- Continuing research and preparation of a legal argument regarding the rights assertions of Métis citizens in British Columbia; and a call for additional support and advocacy from Métis communities.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

Nicole Ludwig, Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) Clerk, conducted a roll call and confirmed that a quorum was present.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE 2025 MNGA

AGENDA VARIED

The order of the agenda varied during the MNGA. Items are presented in these minutes in the order they were considered and are numbered in the order reflected in the approved agenda.

1. NOMINATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF MNGA SPEAKER

The MNGA Clerk called for nominations for the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the 2025 MNGA, which prompted the nomination of Dave Peltier for Speaker, who consented to the nomination.

The MNGA Clerk called for further nominations and after the third call, with there being no further nominations, declared the nominations closed. The MNGA Clerk confirmed that there were no objections to the nomination and declared that Dave Peltier was selected as Speaker for the 2025 MNGA.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The March 1-2, 2025, MNGA was called to order on March 1, 2025, at approximately 9:25 a.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST).

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the 2025 MNGA Draft Agenda

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): Draft Agenda for the March 1-2, 2025, MNGA

It was MOVED (Louis De Jaeger) and SECONDED

That the Agenda for the Métis Nation British Columbia 2025 Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 1-2, 2025, be adopted with the following amendments:

- Include consideration of "Motion 4: Interim Appointment for Region 4 Youth Representative"; and
- Consider Resolution #6, "Enhance Transparency and Accountability in MNBC Reporting and Financial Management", prior to Resolution #5, "Funding for Chartered Communities".

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-01)

3.2 Adoption of the December 2024 MNGA Draft Minutes

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): Draft Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly held December 2024

It was MOVED (Jeff Crozier) and SECONDED (Melanie Allard)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly held November 30 – December 1, 2024, be adopted as presented.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-02)

4. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): “MNGA Reports 2025” Booklet

The Speaker highlighted that the Secretary and Treasurer Reports were not included for presentation and would be brought forward at the June 2025 MNGA.

During discussion, comments were offered on challenges faced by the Mid Island Métis Nation including disagreements around citizenship issues and limited capacity to support members requesting assistance. President Bremner welcomed guidance and support from other communities.

It was MOVED (Cheryl Dodman) and SECONDED (Tyler Massee)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia 2025 Métis Nation Governing Assembly, accepts the following reports for information:

- President's Report
- Vice-President's Report
- Regional Director Reports
- Métis Women of British Columbia Chairperson Report
- Métis Youth of British Columbia Chairperson Report
- 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council Report
- Senate Report
- Ministry Reports
- Community Reports
- Expenditure Report.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-03)

5. MOTION 1: Interim Appointments for Region 5 Women's and Youth Representatives

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): “Motion 1: Interim Appointment for Region 5 Women's and Youth Representative” submitted by Region 5 Director, in consultation with the Region 5 Regional Governance Council and dated January 17, 2025

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed motion. A majority of the eligible voting delegates was required to vote in favour, for the motion to be duly ratified.

It was MOVED (Marlene Swears) and SECONDED (Sylvia Desrocher)

WHEREAS:

1. The Métis Nation British Columbia General Elections conducted in 2024 and the ByElections in 2025 did not yield any candidates for the Region 5 Women's and Youth Representative positions;
2. The Region 5 Community Leaders engaged in community consultation and recruitment to fill the Regional Women's and Youth Representative positions;
3. In accordance with Article 13.2 of the *Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act* and Article 47.4 of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia*, Regional Governance Councils (RGC) may recommend candidates to the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) to fill the vacancies of regional representatives; and
4. On January 16, 2025, the Region 5 RGC met and approved recommendations for the Regional Women and Youth positions;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA appoints Denza Phung (preferred name: Marcel) as the Region 5 Youth Representative, as per the Region 5 RGC's recommendation; and
- B. The MNGA appoints Dawna Short as the Region 5 Women's Representative, as per the Region 5 RGC's recommendation.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-04)

6. MOTION 2: Interim Appointment for Region 1 Youth Representatives

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): "Motion 1: Interim Appointment for Region 1 Youth Representatives" submitted by Region 1 Director, in consultation with the Region 1 Regional Governance Council and dated January 22, 2025

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed motion. A majority of the eligible voting delegates was required to vote in favour, for the motion to be duly ratified.

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Caitlin Bird)

WHEREAS:

1. The Métis Nation British Columbia General Elections conducted in 2024 and the ByElections in 2025 did not yield any candidates for the Region 1 Youth Representative position;
2. The Region 1 Community Leaders engaged in community consultation and recruitment to fill the Youth Representative position;
3. In accordance with Article 13.2 of the *Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act* and Article 47.4 of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia*, Regional Governance Councils (RGC) may recommend candidates to the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) to fill the vacancies of regional representatives; and
4. On January 21, 2025, the Region 1 RGC met and approved a recommendation for the Regional Youth position;



BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA appoints Seone Anderson as the Region 1 Youth Representative, as per Region 1 RGC's recommendation.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-05)

7. MOTION 3: Electoral Act Committee Membership

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): "Motion 3: Electoral Act Committee Membership" submitted by 2SLGBTQIA+ Chairperson in consultation with the Electoral Act Committee and dated January 20, 2025

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed motion. A majority of the eligible voting delegates was required to vote in favour, for the motion to be duly ratified.

It was MOVED (Cheryl Dodman) and SECONDED (Caitlin Bird)

WHEREAS:

1. The Electoral Act Committee was created by the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) in 2021 to review the governance and decision-making structures within Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and the MNGA;
2. The current membership includes representatives from the MNBC Board, Regional representatives appointed by the Regional Governance Councils (RGC), and representatives from the Métis Women of British Columbia (MFWBC) and Métis Youth of British Columbia (MYBC);
3. The 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council (PGC) was created at the 2024 MNBC Annual General Meeting; and
4. All governance entities of MNBC should have an opportunity to provide input into the *Métis Nation Electoral Act*;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA changed the membership of the Electoral Act Committee by adding "One MNBC Citizen member designated by the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council"; and
- B. Subject to approval of A, above, the words "the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council", be added to the "Appointment" section of the Electoral Act Committee Terms of Reference, following the word "Committees" so it shall read as follows:

"The Respective Regional Governance Councils, the MWBC and MYBC Provincial Committees, the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council, and the Board of Directors will select their representative to the Electoral Act Committee.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-06)

8. MOTION 4: Interim Appointment for Region 4 Youth Representative

Related information (displayed at the Meeting): "Motion 4: Interim Appointment for Region 4 Youth Representatives" submitted by Region 4 Director, in consultation with the Region 4 Regional Governance

Council and dated February 19, 2025

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed motion. A majority of the eligible voting delegates was required to vote in favour, for the motion to be duly ratified.

It was MOVED (Debra Fisher) and SECONDED (Jeff Crozier)

WHEREAS:

1. The Métis Nation British Columbia General Elections conducted in 2024 and the ByElections in 2025 did not yield any candidates for the Region 4 Youth Representative position;
2. The Region 4 Community Leaders engaged in community consultation and recruitment to fill the Youth Representative position;
3. In accordance with Article 13.2 of the *Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act* and Article 47.4 of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia*, Regional Governance Councils (RGCs) may recommend candidates to the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) to fill the vacancies of regional representatives; and
4. On February 18, 2025, the Region 4 RGC met and approved a recommendation for the Regional Youth position;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA appoints Charly Defouw as the Region 4 Youth Representative, as per the Region 4 RGC's recommendation.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-07)

9. RESOLUTION 1: By-election Timing and Filling Vacancies on MWBC, MYBC, and the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Councils

Related information (displayed and provided with the Agenda): "Resolution 1: By-election Timing and Filling Vacancies on Métis Women of British Columbia (MWBC), Métis Youth of British Columbia (MYBC), and the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Councils" submitted by the MNBC Board of Directors and dated December 9, 2024

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. At least 75% of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Requesting that the MNGA Governance Committee assess the feasibility of allowing extended nomination periods as required, to provide the opportunity to fill positions for which no nominations were received
- The current priority of the MNGA Governance Committee, being the review of Chartered Community Agreements.

In response to questions raised, it was noted that:

- According to Section 47.4 of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia*, "mid-term" vacancies that arise on the MWBC, MYBC and 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Councils could be filled by appointment and ratified by the MNGA.



Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Tyler Massee) and SECONDED (Patrick Harriott)

WHEREAS:

1. If vacant seats on the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Board, Métis Women of British Columbia (MWBC), Métis Youth of British Columbia (MYBC), or the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council (PGC) remain after an election, the *Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia* (the “*Constitution*”) requires that a by-election be called within 120 days of the date of that vacancy;
2. 120 days is a short time period to take all the steps necessary to meet the other deadlines, set out in the *Métis Nation Electoral Act* (the “*Electoral Act*”), including convening the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) to set an election date and preparing materials to ensure the by-election is run properly;
3. Discrepancies in legislation must be rectified;
4. It is important that MWBC, MYBC, and the 2SLGBTQIA+ PGC have all positions filled; and
5. The *Constitution* and the *Electoral Act* are silent on the process that occurs after a by-election is held and vacancies in Regional Representative positions remain, which could lead to ongoing by-elections at a substantial cost to the MNBC;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Article 47 of the *Constitution* be amended by striking the words “one hundred and twenty (120)” and inserting the words “one hundred and eighty (180)” in their place;
- B. Insert the underlined words in Article 47.4 of the *Constitution*, as set out below:
“47.4. In the case of any other vacancy on the Board of Directors, an interim Director, as selected by the RGC will be recommended to the MNGA by the Board of Directors and if approved by the MNGA, the vacancy shall be filled by the interim Director. In the case of a vacancy in a position of a MWBC Regional Representative or MYBC Regional Representative, an interim Representative will be recommended to the MNGA by the respective RGC, and if approved by the MNGA, the vacancy shall be filled by the interim representative. In the case of a vacancy on the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council, an interim Representative will be recommended to the MNGA by the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council in consultation with the relevant Regional Governance Council. An interim Director or Representative shall be subject to Article 45 of the *Constitution*.”;
- C. The following be added as a new Article before Article 48 of the *Constitution*:
“If a vacancy remains in any Regional Representative position for MWBC, MYBC, or the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council following a by-election to fill vacancies that were not filled in the original election, a recommendation to fill the position(s) until the end of the current term will be submitted to the MNGA for approval, as set out in Article 47.4.”;
- D. All Articles in the *Constitution* be renumbered as appropriate;
- E. Article 10.1 of the *Electoral Act* be amended by deleting the struck-through text and inserting the underlined text, as set out below:
“If, after the close of nominations there are offices that remain without Candidates or without persons

elected by acclamation, the Chief Electoral Officer shall set another day for the receipt of nominations for the remaining offices subject to available funding. Nominations shall be received for a ~~an Election by-election~~ to be held ~~no earlier than three (3) months and~~ no later than 180 days ~~six (6) months~~ from the date of the original Election and shall follow the processes and rules set out in this *Electoral Act*.

- a. If a vacancy remains in any Regional Representative position for MWBC, MYBC, or the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council following a by-election to fill vacancies that were not filled in the original election, a recommendation to fill the position(s) until the end of the current term will be submitted to the MNGA for approval, as set out in Article 47.4 of the *Constitution*.”;
- F. Article 4.11 of the Métis Provincial Council British Columbia Bylaws be amended by striking the words “one hundred and twenty (120)” and inserting the words “one hundred and eighty (180)” in their place.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Caitlin Bird) and SECONDED (Louis De Jaeger)

That the Main Resolution be amended by appending the following to the “Be it Resolved” Clauses A, E, and F: “(For the purpose of calculating this 180-day period, the days from December 24 to January 2 inclusive are not counted.)”

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-08)

Question on the Main Resolution as Amended

The question was called on the Main Resolution as Amended , and it was

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-09)

Sections A, E and F of the “BE IT RESOLVED” section of Resolution 1 as amended, now read:

- A. Article 47 of the *Constitution* be amended by striking the words “one hundred and twenty (120)” and inserting the words “one hundred and eighty (180)” in their place. (For the purpose of calculating this 180-day period, the days from December 24 to January 2 inclusive are not counted.);
- E. Article 10.1 of the *Electoral Act* be amended by deleting the struck-through text and inserting the underlined text, as set out below:
“If, after the close of nominations there are offices that remain without Candidates or without persons elected by acclamation, the Chief Electoral Officer shall set another day for the receipt of nominations for the remaining offices subject to available funding. Nominations shall be received for a ~~an Election by-election~~ to be held ~~no earlier than three (3) months and~~ no later than 180 days ~~six (6) months~~ from the date of the original Election and shall follow the processes and rules set out in this *Electoral Act* (For the purpose of calculating this 180-day period, the days from December 24 to January 2 inclusive are not counted.);
- (a) If a vacancy remains in any Regional Representative position for MWBC, MYBC, or the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council following a by-election to fill vacancies that were not filled in the original election, a recommendation to fill the position(s) until the end of the current term will be submitted to the MNGA for approval, as set out in Article 47.4 of the *Constitution*.”

- F. Article 4.11 of the Métis Provincial Council British Columbia Bylaws be amended by striking “one hundred and twenty (120)” and insert “one hundred and eighty (180)” in its place. (For the purpose of calculating this 180-day period, the days from December 24 to January 2 inclusive are not counted.)”.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 10:30 a.m. PST and reconvened at 10:45 a.m. PST.

ROLL CALL - POSTPONED

Roll call was postponed until after the “Presentation: 2024 Election and 2025 By-Election Review”.

10. PRESENTATION: 2024 Election and 2025 By-Election Review

Related information (displayed at the Meeting): Presentation titled, “2024 General Election and 2025 By-Election Results Review”

Nicole Ludwig, MNGA Clerk, reviewed the presentation on voter turnout and data from the MNBC’s 2024 General Election and 2025 By-Election, and offered comments on:

- Challenges such as the postal worker strike and winter holidays impacted the By-Election
- A low voter turnout in both the General Election and By-Election, particularly in more remote Regions and amongst voters in the 18-24 and 25-34 age brackets
- A preference amongst voters for electronic voting
- Compiling feedback from the 2025 By-Election for submission to the Electoral Act Committee.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Challenges in maintaining voter anonymity in 2SLGBTQIA+ elections when using ballot boxes
- Engaging with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to gather feedback from the 2025 By-Election
- Implementing a “ballot request” system for 2SLGBTQIA+ elections
- The importance of consistent election rules from start to finish
- Providing Region-specific data to Community Presidents to help address low voter turnout
- Offering technical support for electronic voting and ensuring ballot boxes are placed in accessible locations.

In response to questions raised, it was noted that:

- Ten community ballot boxes were distributed in the 2024 Election, with broad representation across the regions, and a total of 65 ballots cast across those boxes
- MNBC cannot request Canada Post to expedite mail-in ballots, unlike in provincial or federal elections where mail-in ballots are prioritized
- Clarifying the requirements for a community to have a ballot box.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

11. RESOLUTION 2: Citizenship Act Amendments

Related information (displayed and provided with the Agenda): “Resolution 2: Citizenship Act Amendments” submitted by the Métis Board of Directors and dated December 9, 2024

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. At least 75% of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified.

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (David Allard)

WHEREAS:

1. Some of the language in the *Métis Nation Citizenship Act* (the “*Citizenship Act*”) is inconsistent and unclear, and so does not completely serve the needs of Citizens and those applying for Citizenship;
2. The Ministry of Citizenship staffing and practices have evolved and a general review of the *Citizenship Act* is necessary to ensure that legislation aligns with current practices;
3. Legislation must be regularly reviewed to ensure consistency and clarity;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The *Citizenship Act* be amended as follows:

- A. Strike the following definitions:
 - i. 2.20 “Registration”
 - ii. 2.26 “Registered”
- B. Amend the following definitions as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:
 - i. “**Appeal**” or “**Appeals**” means a written document submitted by: an Applicant who has been rejected entry in the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizen Registry, ~~a Métis Nation British Columbia Citizen who is objecting to the registration of any Applicant to the Métis Nation British Columbia Central Registry~~, or a person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six of this Act;
 - ii. “**Applicant**” means an individual who applies for a Provincial MNBC Citizenship Card by filing the necessary documentation with the ~~Citizenship Authority~~ Ministry of Citizenship;
 - iii. “**Application**” means the Provincial MNBC Citizenship Standardized Application Form provided by MNBC through the Ministry of Citizenship or on the MNBC website;
 - iv. “**Citizenship Authority**” (the “Authority”) means the office in the Ministry of Citizenship which processes, assesses, ensures Chartered Community acceptance is approved within the required timeframe, and issues citizenship cards. The Authority consists of:
 - The Executive Director of Citizenship
 - The Director of Citizenship
 - ~~The Citizenship Assessment~~ Indigenous Research Manager;
 - v. “**Métis**” or “**Citizen**” means a Métis Citizen as defined by the Constitution;
 - vi. “**Under Review**” means a citizen whose Citizenship is currently being reviewed by the Citizenship Authority following an audit of the Citizen Registry. ~~means a previously registered Citizen whose Citizenship is currently being reviewed by the Citizenship Authority following an audit or review of the Central Registry;~~
- C. Insert definitions as follows:

“**Application Process**” means the process to receive Applications and determine Métis Citizenship,



outlined in Article 4 of this Act, and that is operationalized, maintained, and updated from time to time by the Ministry of Citizenship.

“Ministry of Citizenship” means the Ministry at MNBC that promotes Métis Citizenship in British Columbia and supports people who self-identify as Métis through the citizenship application process, while ensuring integrity of the Registry;

- D. Amend Article 3.1 as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:
- 3.1 The MNBC shall accept an application for ~~citizenship~~ Citizenship upon the Applicant providing to the Citizenship Authority Ministry of Citizenship a written ~~application~~ Application together with sufficient Genealogical evidence which, if accepted by the Citizenship Authority, is proof that the Applicant is of Métis ancestry, and that the Applicant complies with the following conditions:
- E. Amend the title and certain parts of Article Four as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:

ARTICLE FOUR – REGISTRATION APPLICATION PROCESS

- 4.1 An individual is entitled to apply for Métis Citizenship by submitting an ~~application~~ Application directly to the Ministry of Citizenship or through a Métis Chartered Community; ~~An individual is entitled to make application for registration as a Métis Citizen by making application to the MNBC or to a Chartered Community;~~
- 4.2 Upon approval of registration, the Citizenship Authority shall issue a Provincial MNBC Citizenship Card recognizing the Applicant as a Métis Citizen;
- 4.3 The parent or guardian of a child under nineteen (19) years of age may apply ~~for registration~~ on behalf of the child;
- 4.4 The guardian of an individual who is under a mental or legal disability may apply ~~for registration~~ on behalf of that individual;
- 4.6 The Applicant must provide the Ministry of Citizenship with the necessary supporting documentation, as described in the Application Process for the Applicant to be considered for Métis Citizenship. ~~In the case of an application for registration, the Applicant must provide the Citizenship Authority with genealogy and the supporting documentation necessary to validate and verify that the Applicant is Métis;~~
- 4.7 The Citizenship Authority shall provide final review of complete Applications ~~applications~~ for Métis Citizenship registration and approve the application ~~shall register an Applicant as a Métis~~ only if the Applicant is eligible ~~entitled to be registered as a Métis Citizen~~ pursuant to the provisions of this Act.
- ii. ~~Upon completion of the Métis Nation acceptance process; and~~
- iii. ~~The application~~ Application ~~fulfills all the requirements of the Application Process~~ is properly made;
- F. Delete Article 4.8 entirely;
- G. Amend Articles 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 as indicated by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:
- 5.1 An MNBC Citizen may, at any time, voluntarily remove themselves from the Citizen Registry;

- 5.2 The Citizenship Authority shall remove an MNBC Citizen who, by written request, declares that they no longer wish to be ~~registered as~~ an MNBC Citizen;
- 5.3 An MNBC Citizen who has removed themselves from the Registry may re-apply upon following the application procedure for becoming an MNBC Citizen, as set out in this Act. ~~may re-apply for Registration upon following the procedure for Registration as a Métis Citizen as set out in this Act.;~~
- H. Amend Articles 6.5 and 6.6 as indicated by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:
- 6.5 A person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six may re-apply for MNBC Citizenship by completing the Application Process. ~~may re-apply for Registration upon following the procedure for Registration as a Métis Citizen as set out in this Act.;~~
- 6.6 A person who is placed under review by the Citizenship Authority is not eligible to apply for any further supports, programs, or funding through MNBC until their citizenship Citizenship has been reaffirmed. A person currently receiving supports will continue to receive them for at least sixty (60) days following the notice sent by the Citizenship Authority. This time frame can be extended, by request of the person under review, by a further ninety (90) days.
- i. ~~Extension requests are granted at the discretion of the responsible program director. A negative decision can be appealed within thirty (30) days to the MNBC Board, who can overturn the decision by a majority vote.;~~
- I. Amend the title and certain parts of Article Seven as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:

ARTICLE SEVEN – ~~CENTRAL~~ CITIZEN REGISTRY

- 7.1 The Ministry of Citizenship shall maintain an objectively verifiable uniform system for the processing of Métis Citizenship Applications; ~~Registration of Métis Citizens;~~
- 7.2 The Ministry of Citizenship shall collect and maintain the information necessary to determine registration Citizenship eligibility; the information to be collected is listed on the MNBC Citizenship Application Package and updated from time to time;
- 7.3 The Ministry of Citizenship may collect and ~~register~~ maintain additional demographic information about Métis Citizens as, in the Ministry of Citizenship's sole discretion, is deemed necessary and/or expedient;
- 7.7 Applicants may apply for Citizenship by written Application through a Chartered Community, ~~a regional registry clerk,~~ or directly to the Ministry of Citizenship ~~Métis Nation British Columbia registry;~~
- 7.8 ~~Application~~ Applications may ~~shall~~ be submitted by a the Chartered Community of the MNBC ~~and/or the Regional Registry Clerk~~ to the Ministry of Citizenship on behalf of the applicant for consideration and entry into the Central Registry;
- 7.10 An Applicant, ~~having applied for Citizenship directly to the MNBC and~~ whose Application the Citizenship Authority approves, shall be issued ~~a Provincial~~ an MNBC Citizenship Card by the ~~Central Registry~~ Ministry of Citizenship; ~~and forwarded directly to the Applicant;~~
- J. Strike Article 7.11 because its purpose is covered in 7.10;



K. Strike the title “ARTICLE EIGHT – REGISTRY OFFICE” because its purpose is covered by Article Seven;

Note: the following Sections of the Citizenship Act referenced below are the sections enumerated in the Act as ratified in September 2023. The final resolution will allow for reordering and renumbering all definitions, sections, and subsections, as appropriate.

L. Amend Article 9 as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:

9.2 Receive and review applications for citizenship submitted by an Applicant on the Provincial MNBC Standardized Citizenship Application Forms and shall render a decision whether a person is entitled to be a Métis Citizen. ~~registered pursuant to this Act;~~

9.5 Maintain the Central Citizen Registry in a suitable and proper manner;

9.6 Provide a written decision to the Applicant ~~and/or Chartered Community~~, as may be appropriate under the circumstances concerning an application;

9.9 Applicants whose applications are not approved for Citizenship ~~by the Central Registry~~ may appeal such decision to the Senate;

M. Delete Articles 9.8 and 9.12 entirely;

N. Strike all remaining instances of the following words and phrases, and insert the words and phrases indicated throughout the Citizenship Act in their places:

<u>Strike</u>	<u>Insert</u>
Registry	Citizen Registry
Central Registry	
Provincial MNBC Card	MNBC Citizenship Card
Provincial Citizenship Card	
Citizenship	Citizenship

O. Reorganize and renumber all definitions so that they are in alphabetical order, renumber all Articles and sub-Articles as appropriate, and make all consequential changes necessary within Articles due to renumbering.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-10)

Lunch Break

The Assembly recessed at 11:50 a.m. PST and reconvened at 1:00 p.m. PST.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

12. RESOLUTION 3: Citizenship Act Amendments: Adoption Clause

Related information (displayed and provided with the Agenda): “Resolution 3: Citizenship Act Amendments: Adoption Clause” submitted by the Métis Board of Directors and dated December 9, 2024

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. At least 75% of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Providing children adopted to Métis parents, the same rights as biological children of Métis parents
- Ensuring that MNBC programs and services are exclusively available to Métis, and that leadership roles are reserved for Métis individuals
- Offering pathways for “membership” that do not compromise the MNBC Citizenship Registry
- Confirmation that the MNBC Citizenship Registry did not currently have any pending citizenship applications on behalf of an adopted non-Métis child
- Convening a Townhall in the coming months to facilitate a more fulsome discussion on granting MNBC citizenship to adopted non-Métis children.

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Susie Hooper) and SECONDED (Jeff Crozier)

WHEREAS:

1. Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) has agreed to follow the “National Definition” of Métis, which states: “Métis” means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry and is accepted by the Métis Nation”;
2. Article 12 of the *Métis Nation Citizenship Act* (the “Citizenship Act”) permits individuals adopted by Métis Citizens to apply for – and receive – Métis Citizenship, regardless of whether they meet the “National Definition” requirement “is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry” or not; and
3. People who are not adopted and apply for MNBC Citizenship are required to demonstrate that they are “of historic Métis Nation Ancestry” in order to become Citizens, and as a matter of practice this requirement must be the same for all people applying for Citizenship;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Article 12 be struck in its entirety from the *Citizenship Act*.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Louis De Jaeger)

That the “Be It Resolved” clause of the Main Resolution be replaced with:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Article 12 of the *Citizenship Act* be struck and replaced with:
 - 12.1 Children adopted by an MNBC Citizen by the age of twelve (12) shall have access to MNBC programs and services until the age of eighteen (18)”.

DEFEATED

(12 delegates voted in favour, 26 opposed and 3 abstained)



Postponement

It was MOVED (Lisa Shepherd) and SECONDED (Anya McVean)

That the Métis Nation of British Columbia 2025 Métis Nation General Assembly (MNGA) postpone consideration of Resolution 3 until the next meeting of the MNGA.

ADOPTED (MNGA2501-11)

(29 delegates voted in favour, 7 opposed and 5 abstained)

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 3:13 p.m. PST and reconvened at 3:25 p.m. PST.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

13. RESOLUTION 4: Ensuring Representation for 2SLGBTQIA+ Citizens at the MNGA and Regional Governance Councils

Related information (displayed and provided with the Agenda): "Resolution 4: Ensuring Representation for 2SLGBTQIA+ Citizens at the MNGA and Regional Governance Councils" submitted by South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Society and dated January 17, 2025.

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. At least 75% of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Further consultation with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, prior to voting on the resolution
- Aligning the 2SLGBTQIA+ Act with the Métis Nation Women's Act and Métis Nation Youth Act
- Ratification required at MNBC's Fall AGM to allow for discussion in the coming months.

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Louis De Jaeger) and SECONDED (Jeff Crozier)

WHEREAS:

1. Chartered Community Presidents constitute a majority of the membership of Regional Governance Councils (RGCs) and the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA);
2. In the event a Community President cannot attend an RGC or MNGA Meeting, the Vice-President may attend in their place;
3. Chartered Community Presidents and Vice-Presidents are leaders in their community, and as such may also hold elected Regional positions; and
4. If a President or Vice-President is also an elected Regional representative, reduction of representation at an RGC or MNGA for groups such as women and youth may be negatively impacted;



5. A similar resolution for the Métis Women of British Columbia and the Métis Youth of British Columbia was approved at the 2024 MNBC Annual General Meeting (AGM), and approval of this resolution will align the Métis Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ Act (the “2SLGBTQQIA+ Act”) with the Métis Nation Women’s Act and Métis Nation Youth Act.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The underlined words be inserted in Article 8.10 to the *Métis Nation Electoral Act*, as set out below:
- 8.10 Upon election, by vote or acclamation, as a Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+, Regional Women’s, or Youth Representative, a Citizen who holds the position of President or Vice-President on a Chartered Community Board must immediately resign from that position.
- B. The following be added as a sub-Article to Article 5.3 of the *2SLGBTQQIA+ Act*:
- “Upon election, by vote or acclamation, as a Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative, a Citizen who holds the position of President or Vice-President on a Chartered Community Board must immediately resign from that position.
- i. if the position of Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative is vacant between elections, a President or Vice-President of a Chartered Community may be appointed to the position on an interim basis, subject to procedures set out in the *Constitution* and the *MNGA Act*.”

Postponement

It was MOVED (Lisa Shepherd) and SECONDED (Anya McVean)

That the Métis Nation of British Columbia General Assembly (MNGA) postpone consideration of Resolution 3 until the next meeting of the MNGA.

DEFEATED

(17 delegates voted in favour, 25 opposed and 0 abstained)

Agenda Varied

Delegates confirmed by electronic poll, to extend the adjournment time to 4:20 p.m.

Question on the Main Resolution

The question was called on the Main Resolution, and it was

ADOPTED (MNGA2501-12)

(29 delegates voted in favour, 7 opposed and 5 abstained)

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The March 1-2, 2025 MNBC MNGA adjourned on March 1, 2025, at approximately 4:15 p.m. PST.

DAY TWO – March 2, 2025

ASSEMBLY RECONVENED – CALL TO ORDER

The March 1-2, 2025 MNBC MNGA reconvened on March 2, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. PST.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

14. **RESOLUTION 6: Enhance Transparency and Accountability in MNBC Reporting and Financial Management**
Related information (displayed and provided with the Agenda): “Resolution 6: Enhance Transparency and Accountability in MNBC Reporting and Financial Management” submitted by the Waceya Métis Society; Salmon Arm Métis Association; and South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association and dated January 30, 2025

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. A majority of the eligible voting delegates was required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Shifting toward a more distributed and decentralized governance model beyond the traditional non-profit structure
- Strengthening citizens' trust in MNBC through increased transparency
- Providing citizens with detailed spending information upon request
- MNBC's current practice to provide greater transparency than auditors require
- MNBC's lack of discretionary funding, as governance funding had been specifically allocated as administrative funds within funding agreements
- Indicating a comparison of actual spending versus budget allocation in an annual report
- Balancing citizen oversight with the need to avoid excessive scrutiny of MNBC spending
- Clearly communicating the sources of all MNBC funding
- Ensuring that financial statements and annual reports were easy for citizens to understand, while providing transparency into MNBC's decision-making processes
- Presenting financial reports to the MNGA separately and ahead of an MNGA or AGM to gather feedback on the most effective way to present financial information clearly.

It was MOVED (David Allard) and SECONDED (Callum Robinson)

WHEREAS:

1. There is little to no transparency between the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and Chartered Communities regarding how MNBC spends its funding at its discretion. This opacity has led to concerns among Chartered Communities about the effective allocation and use of resources;
2. Currently, there is no clear method for the Chartered Communities or citizens of MNBC to assess how effectively MNBC is adhering to its Strategic Plan or reaching the goals set out in the plan. Without a clear framework, it is difficult to measure progress or hold leadership accountable for unmet objectives;
3. The current MNBC Annual General Meeting (AGM) report is presented in a bloated format that includes

complex financial reports without proper context, and ministry reports that lack clear metrics or measurable outcomes. These reports are challenging to interpret and do not provide the clarity needed for Chartered Communities to fully understand MNBC's activities or progress; and

4. Chartered Communities and citizens of MNBC deserve clear, concise, and transparent reporting on MNBC's progress in meeting the goals outlined in the strategic plan. Accountability in both financial management and program delivery is critical to building trust and ensuring effective governance;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly request that the MNBC Board direct staff to:
 - Produce an annual report that directly illustrates how MNBC's activities, programs, and overall initiatives reflect progress, or lack thereof, toward achieving the goals set out in the MNBC strategic plan. This report should be designed as a measure of accountability to demonstrate whether MNBC is successfully meeting its strategic objectives;
 - Ensure the annual report clearly outlines how funding streams from federal and provincial sources, as well as discretionary spending, are allocated and used. This report must provide transparent, accessible information for Chartered Communities, breaking down the financial management in a way that is easy to understand, allowing Chartered Communities and citizens to see exactly how resources are being utilized and where they are being allocated;
 - Ensure that the annual report is concise and relevant, presenting financial information with clear context, highlighting key metrics and measurable outcomes for each ministry. This approach will provide a more focused and transparent report, removing unnecessary legislative updates or information that is not pertinent to the previous year's activities; and
 - Ensure that every dollar from its annual operating budget is accounted for in the annual report, detailing exactly how funds are being allocated, spent, and managed. This will provide full transparency on financial operations, ensuring that Chartered Communities and MNBC citizens have clear insight into the fiscal responsibility of MNBC leadership;
- B. Subject to approval of A above, the Board directs the MNBC Treasurer to be accountable for the accuracy of this annual report, ensuring that it meets the transparency and accountability standards outlined above. The Treasurer shall work closely with Chartered Communities to ensure their satisfaction with the transparency and clarity of the report, incorporating their feedback into future improvements; and
- C. Subject to approval of A and B above, the MNBC engage with Chartered Communities in a consultation process to develop a standardized reporting format that addresses the need for transparency, accountability, and clarity, ensuring that the needs and concerns of all communities are reflected in future reports.

Resolution to Postpone

It was MOVED (Carmen Carriere) and SECONDED (Walter Mineault)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia 2025 Métis Nation Governing Assembly postpone consideration of Resolution 6, until a Regional Consultation and Townhall have been held to review and discuss its contents.

Amendment to the Resolution to Postpone



It was MOVED (Callum Robinson) and SECONDED (Louis De Jaeger)

That the Resolution to Postpone be amended by including the words, “prior to the MNBC 2025 Annual General Meeting”.

ADOPTED (MNGA2501-13)

(31 delegates voted in favour, 5 opposed, and 1 delegate abstained)

Question on the Resolution to Postpone as Amended

The question was called on the Resolution to Postpone as amended, and it was

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-14)

The Resolution to Postpone, as amended, now reads:

“That the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) 2025 Métis Nation Governing Assembly postpone consideration of Resolution 6, until a Regional Consultation and Townhall have been held, prior to the MNBC 2025 Annual General Meeting, to review and discuss its contents.”

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 10:22 a.m. PST and reconvened at 10:40 a.m. PST.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

15. RESOLUTION 5: Funding for Chartered Communities

Related information (displayed and provided with the Agenda): “Resolution 5: Funding for Chartered Communities” submitted by the South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association, Salmon Arm Métis Association, and Waceyá Métis Association and dated January 17, 2025

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. A majority of the eligible voting delegates was required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Growing demands from communities and a need for Chartered Communities to have increased capacity
- Increased funding for communities since pre-COVID levels, with ongoing efforts to further increase funding
- A lack of sustained and predictable funding across all levels of MNBC government
- Decreased funding anticipated from provincial and federal governments, including upcoming cuts to Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) funding
- The pending completion of the MNBC Section 35 report, with federal programs and services for Indigenous peoples being evaluated through the lens of Section 35 rights recognition
- Chartered Communities' attempts to generate revenue
- Assisting Chartered Communities to prepare economic development plans
- The importance of consistent communication from Chartered Communities to guide and strengthen MNBC's advocacy efforts.

In response to questions raised, it was noted that the MNBC:

- Employs over 300 staff across the province and is streamlining operations
- Is conducting an efficiency review to assist with cost-cutting measures
- Has prioritized creating own-source revenue, and refocused on investments like land purchases and other assets that generate long-term returns rather than investing in structures that MNBC does not own.

It was MOVED (Callum Robinson) and SECONDED (Parick Harriott)

WHEREAS:

1. Chartered Communities are experiencing unprecedented demands on their resources and services;
2. Volunteers within these communities are increasingly facing burnout due to the extensive and ongoing nature of their contributions;
3. There is a need for substantial financial support to ensure the sustainable operation and success of these communities;
4. Funding is essential for covering costs related to rent and housekeeping needs, hiring contractors/staff, and organizing programs/events that benefit the community;
5. Strict documentation of how funds are used is critical to ensure transparency and accountability; and
6. If funds are not entirely spent or properly accounted for, the continuation of funding may be at risk;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The resolution approved at the March 2023 Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) entitled “Stipend for Volunteer Community Elected Members” (attached as Appendix A) be rescinded and replaced with the following;
- B. Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) provide funding up to \$150,000 (ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS) annually to each MNBC Chartered Community;
- C. MNBC provide the funding on a predictable date annually;
- D. Communities that accept this funding are required to maintain detailed records of expenditures and provide comprehensive annual reports to the MNBC, with requirements to be established by the MNBC; and
- E. Funding allocation is contingent upon compliance with the documentation and accountability measures set forth by the MNBC.

DEFEATED

(6 delegates voted in favour, 34 opposed and 1 abstained)

16. CLOSING REMARKS AND PRAYER

President Mineault expressed gratitude to the Speaker and staff for facilitating the meeting and thanked all participants for their attendance. Jamie Keith provided a Closing Prayer.

CONCLUSION

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Allan Lavallee)

That the March 1-2, 2025 Métis Nation British Columbia 2025 Métis Nation Governing Assembly, now conclude.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-15)

(Time: March 2, 2025, at 11:35 a.m. PST)

* * *

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the MNBC MNGA held March 1-2, 2025, and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.

Dave Peltier, MNGA Speaker

Nicole Ludwig, MNGA Clerk

DRAFT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS 1

POSTPONED TO THE SUMMER 2025
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY



Subject:	Citizenship Act Amendments: Adoption Clause
Legislation Affected:	Citizenship Act
Submitted by:	MNBC Board of Directors
Submitted to:	MNGA Clerk
Date Submitted:	December 9, 2024
Vote Required for Approval:	75%

Note: at the Spring 2025 MNGA, the Assembly postponed consideration of the following resolution to the Summer 2025 MNGA.

WHEREAS:

1. MNBC has agreed to follow the “National Definition” of Métis, which states:
“Métis” means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry and is accepted by the Métis Nation.”
2. Article 12 of the Citizenship Act permits individuals adopted by Métis Citizens to apply for – and receive – Métis Citizenship, regardless if they meet the “National Definition” requirement “is of historic Metis Nation Ancestry” or not.
3. People who are not adopted and apply for MNBC Citizenship are required to demonstrate that they are “of historic Metis Nation Ancestry” in order to become Citizens, and as a matter of practice this requirement must be the same for all people applying for Citizenship.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Article 12 be struck in its entirety from the *Citizenship Act*.

MOTION 1

SUBMITTED TO THE SUMMER 2025
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY



Subject:	2025-2026 MNGA Meetings
Legislation Affected:	n/a
Submitted by:	MNGA Clerk
Date Submitted:	April 25, 2025
Vote Required for Approval:	Majority

WHEREAS:

1. The *Constitution* requires that the MNGA meet at least three times per year, once in person and twice virtually; and,
2. The Constitution further requires that the MNGA determine the dates for the next MNGA at a previous MNGA.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The MNGA meet on the following days, as indicated in the table below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Method</u>
December 6-7, 2025	Virtual
March 7-8, 2026	Virtual
June 5-7, 2026	In Person

RESOLUTION 1

SUBMITTED TO THE SUMMER 2025
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY



Subject:	Update to Strategic Partnerships and Synchronization of Métis Women, 2SLGBTQQIA+, and Youth Legislation
Legislation Affected:	Women's Act; 2SLGBTQQIA+ Act; Youth Act
Submitted by:	Métis Women British Columbia Chairperson, <i>in consultation with MWBC</i> Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ British Columbia Chairperson, <i>in consultation with the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council</i> Métis Youth British Columbia Chairperson, <i>in consultation with MYBC</i>
Submitted to:	MNGA Clerk
Date Submitted:	March 17, 2025
Vote Required for Approval:	75%

WHEREAS

1. Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) is the recognized provincial body to represent the interests of Métis people living in British Columbia.
2. MNBC has undergone significant changes in strategic partnership in 2024.
3. On November 30, 2024, the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) voted to depart the Métis National Council (MNC) due to concerns pertaining to inequitable voting structures impacting non-founding members.
4. On December 5, 2024, the MNBC Board of Directors released a statement outlining concerns over the conduct and operations of *Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO)* in British Columbia, with ceasing further support of LFMO until remedying actions are taken.
5. Legacy language pertaining to the MNC and LFMO remains in the legislations for the *Youth, Women, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Acts*, which are now outdated.

6. The Métis Councils for Women, 2SLGBTQQA+, and Youth in BC look towards building a Nation that has a strong presence both on a national and international level, ensuring the well-being and vibrance of the BC Métis Community.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The **Women's Act** be amended by removing the struck-out words and inserting the underlined words, in Articles 4.4 and 5.4:
 - 4.4 The voice of the Métis Women in British Columbia shall be brought to the MNBC, ~~Métis National Council, Women of the Métis Nation Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak~~, Federal and Provincial Governments, international organizations and associations through the MWBC ~~Committee~~ Provincial Governance Council.
 - 5.4 The Provincial Women's Chairperson shall provide Provincial, ~~and~~ Federal, and international representation for Métis Women, and be accountable to the Provincial Governance Council and the MNBC Board of Directors
- B. The following be added as a sub-article to Article 6 of the **Women's Act**:

In the event a vacancy in the MWBC Provincial Governance Council arises due to the resignation, removal, suspension or otherwise of an MWBC Member, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with MNBC legislation.
- C. The **2SLGBTQQA+ Act** be amended by removing the struck-out words and inserting the underlined words, in Articles 2.3 and 5.3 as set out below:
 - 2.3 The voice of Métis 2SLGBTQQA+ people in British Columbia shall be brought to the MNBC, ~~Métis National Council, Women of the Métis Nation Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak~~, Federal and Provincial Governments, international organizations and associations through the 2SLGBTQQA+ Provincial Governance Council.
 - 5.3 The Provincial 2SLGBTQQA+ Chairperson shall provide Provincial, and Federal, and international representation for 2SLGBTQQA+ Métis Citizens and be accountable to the Provincial Governance Council and the MNBC Board of Directors.
- D. Article 6.3 of the **2SLGBTQQA+ Act** be amended by removing the struck-out words and inserting the underlined words:

In the event a vacancy in the 2SLGBTQQA+ Provincial Governance Council shall arises due to the resignation, removal, suspension or otherwise of a 2SLGBTQQA+ Provincial Governance Council member, the position shall be filled ~~the 2SLGBTQQA+ Provincial Governance Council~~

~~shall hold a by-election~~ in accordance with the MNBC Legislation, as amended from time to time. ~~Electoral Act.~~

- E. Article 4.4 of the **Youth Act** be amended by removing the struck-through words and inserting the underlined terms, as set out below:

4.4 The voice of the Métis Youth in British Columbia shall be brought to the MNBC, ~~Métis National Council~~, Federal and Provincial Governments, international organizations and associations through the MYBC ~~Committee~~ Provincial Governance Council.

- F. Article 6.3 of the **Youth Act** be amended by removing the struck-out words and inserting the underlined words:

In the event a vacancy in the MYBC ~~Committee~~ Provincial Governance Council ~~shall~~ arises due to the resignation, removal, suspension or otherwise of a MYBC ~~Committee~~ Member, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with MNBC legislation. ~~MYBC Committee shall hold a by-election in accordance with the MNBC Electoral Act.~~

- G. The **Youth Act** be amended by striking all instances of “MYBC Committee” and replacing it with “MYBC Provincial Governance Council.”

RESOLUTION 2

SUBMITTED TO THE SUMMER 2025
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY



Subject:	Constitutional Updates for Clarity of Equality Rights
Legislation Affected:	Constitution
Submitted by:	Métis Nation of Greater Victoria
Submitted to:	MNGA Clerk
Date Submitted:	April 20, 2025
Vote Required for Approval:	75%

WHEREAS:

1. The Métis Nation of British Columbia Constitution serves as the foundational piece of governing legislation for Métis citizens.
2. All Métis citizens are valued members of our Nation.
3. The wording of the equality rights provisions in the current MNBC *Constitution* are not consistent with modern forms of equality rights provisions in other jurisdictions.
4. Due, in part, to the impact of colonization, the rights and dignity of individuals are more likely to be infringed upon on the basis of any of the characteristics listed in the proposed amendment to Article 5.
5. It is important to uphold the spirit of *wahkohtowin* by affirming the rights and dignity of individuals and the protection of the characteristics listed in the proposed amendment to Article 5 in a time of heightened discriminatory rhetoric across Turtle Island.
6. It is necessary to clarify that the Nation may act in an ameliorative way that could otherwise be considered to discriminate on the basis of a protected characteristic.
7. It is necessary to enshrine the rights of all citizens in our *Constitution*.

8. The proposed amendment to Article 6 seeks to prevent an interpretation that may exclude children and gender-diverse individuals from the fundamental right of equal enjoyment of civil and political rights within our *Constitution*.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. Article 5 of the *Constitution* be amended by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words, as set out below:

5. The Métis Nation undertakes to respect and ensure to all Métis citizens within the Nation rights without ~~distinction of any kind such as sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other views.~~ discrimination of any kind on the basis of:

5.1. Race, including perceived race and colour;

5.2. Ethnic background, origin or expression, including language and Métis identity;

5.3. Religion or creed, religious belief, religious association, or religious activity;

5.4. Political or other views, including political association or activity;

5.5. Spousal or family status;

5.6. Age;

5.7. Genetic characteristics;

5.8. Physical or mental disability or related characteristics or circumstances, including reliance on a service animal, a wheelchair, or any other remedial appliance or device;

5.9. Sex, including sex-determined characteristics or circumstances, such as pregnancy, the possibility of pregnancy, or circumstances related to pregnancy;

5.10. Gender identity or expression;

5.11. Sexual orientation; and

5.12. Social condition, including income, source of income, occupation, and education.

It is not discrimination or contrary to this Article for the Métis Nation to carry out a program or activity, including employment equity, that has as its object the amelioration of conditions of Métis citizens who are disadvantaged due to one or more of the protected characteristics.

B. Article 6 of the Constitution be amended by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words, as set out below:

6. ~~Métis men and Métis women~~ All Métis Citizens equally enjoy all civil and political rights set forth in these articles.

RESOLUTION 3

SUBMITTED TO THE SUMMER 2025
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY



Subject:	Enhancing MVBC Representation at the MNGA and Clarifying the Relationship with MNBC Board of Directors
Legislation Affected:	Constitution, MNGA Act, Veterans Act
Submitted by:	Region 1 Director
Submitted to:	MNGA Clerk
Date Submitted:	April 20, 2025
Vote Required for Approval:	75%

WHEREAS

1. The Métis Veterans BC (MVBC) Committee works with the MNBC Board of Directors and within the MNBC Governance structure to support Métis Veterans in BC;
2. Veterans do not have direct access to the MNBC governance structure and rely on other members of the MNGA to propose any changes to the Veterans Act, or to act in their stead;
3. MVBC Members are Veterans and are uniquely positioned to ascertain the wants and needs of Veterans and their families, which can be inadvertently missed by people who do not have military or RCMP experience.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The following be added as a sub-article to Article 29 of the *Constitution*:
 - 29.4 The Chairperson of the Métis Veterans BC (MVBC) shall be a non-voting member of the MNGA for the purposes of:
 - a. Submitting resolutions to enact new or change existing Legislation or the

Constitution regarding matters that directly impact Veterans on behalf of MVBC;

- b. Participating in discussion and providing information on the above-noted matters

B. The following be added as a sub-article to Article 4.2 of the *Métis Nation Veterans Act*:

The Chairperson of the Métis Veterans BC (MVBC) shall be a non-voting member of the MNGA, for the purposes of:

- a. Submitting resolutions to enact new or change existing Legislation or the *Constitution* regarding matters that directly impact Veterans on behalf of MVBC;
- b. Participating in discussion and providing information on the above-noted matters.

C. The following be added as a sub-article to Article 3.1 of the *MNGA Act*:

The Chairperson of the Métis Veterans BC (MVBC) shall be a non-voting member of the MNGA, for the purposes of:

- a. Submitting resolutions to enact new or change existing Legislation or the *Constitution* regarding matters that directly impact Veterans on behalf of MVBC;
- b. Participating in discussion and debate on the above-noted matters.

D. The following underlined text be added as a sub-article to Article 12.1(a), 12.2(a), and 12.3(a) of the *MNGA Act*:

- i. Despite article 12.1(a), the Métis Veterans BC (MVBC) Committee may, through the MVBC Chair, submit resolutions to the MNGA on matters that directly affect Métis Veterans.

E. Insert the following as a new Article to the end of *Veterans Act*:

ARTICLE # - NATIONAL REPRESENTATION AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MNBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- #.1 The MVBC Chair (or designate) shall be a non-voting liaison for the MVBC to the MNGA Board of Directors.
- #.2 Despite any changes to MNBC's relationships with other levels of government or other Métis organizations, MVBC will continue to work for MNBC Veterans at a national level, particularly with regard to:

- Providing necessary opportunities for MVBC to participate on Veterans Affairs Canada Advisory Committees;
- Working with the Canadian Armed Forces;
- Working with other appropriate partners, such as Library and Archives Canada.

(a) Nothing should preclude MVBC from receiving funding from other governments, organizations, or agencies.

#.3 MVBC will provide written reports of activities and partnerships to the Board of Directors at the MNBC Annual General Meeting and the in-person MNGA.

F. Renumber all articles in the *Constitution*, the *MNGA Act*, and the *Veterans Act* as necessary.



RESOLUTION 4

SUBMITTED TO THE SUMMER 2025
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY



Subject:	Amendments to the <i>Veterans Act</i>
Legislation Affected:	<i>Veterans Act</i>
Submitted by:	Region 1 Director
Submitted to:	MNGA Clerk
Date Submitted:	April 29, 2025
Vote Required for Approval:	75%

WHEREAS

1. Métis Veterans BC (MVBC) wishes to substantially revise the *Veterans Act* to provide greater clarity around MVBC membership and MVBC Committee Membership.
2. MVBC has reviewed the resolution below and approves of the changes.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. A section "DEFINITIONS" be added prior to Article One of the *Veterans Act*, and the following definitions inserted:

"Chief Service Officer" or "CSO" is the MVBC Committee member appointed to assist Métis Veterans in accessing Veterans' benefits (e.g. through Veterans Affairs Canada), and connecting Métis Veterans with other supports through their local Legion.

"Métis Veteran" is a person who:

- Has received an MNBC Citizenship Card in accordance with the MNBC Citizenship Act, and
- Meets the Department of Veterans Affairs Canada definition for Veteran, as amended from time to time, or

- Is a current member of the Canadian Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve Forces), or
- Is a serving or retired Regular RCMP Member; and
- Has submitted an application form, proof of service, proof of MNBC Citizenship, and has been approved by the MVBC.

“**MNBC**” means Métis Nation British Columbia

“**MVBC Executive Committee**” is a Standing Committee of the MVBC Committee as defined in this Act.

“**MVBC**” means Métis Veterans British Columbia.

“**MVBC Representative**” means the seven members elected to the MVBC Committee to represent Métis Veterans across BC.

“**MVBC Committee**” means Métis Veterans BC Committee

B. The following changes be made to Article Three of the Veterans Act:

- Strike Article 3.1 and insert the following in its place:

Métis Veterans are the Members of the MVBC.

- Strike articles 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 entirely.

- Delete the words struck through in Article 3.2, as set out below:

3.2 A Member ~~or Associate Member~~ may resign their membership in MVBC, through a written request submitted to the MVBC Committee.

- Insert the following after Article 3.2:

A member may be removed from the organization by a 2/3 vote of the MVBC committee, for conduct deemed detrimental to the integrity, mission, or reputation of the organization. This includes, but is not limited to, behavior unbecoming of a member, harassment, violation of the organization’s code of conduct, inability to complete their duties and responsibilities, or actions contrary to the best interests of the organization.

- An MVBC Member, while conducting their duties of the MVBC, shall not be subject to any civil action, lawsuit, or prosecution, because of anything done or not done in relation to their duties.



B. Strike all of Article Four except for the title, and insert the following in its place:

4.1 Métis Veterans BC Committee (“MVBC Committee”) shall consist of 10 members, all being MVBC Members, as follows:

- Seven (7) MVBC Representatives who represent Veterans across the province of British Columbia;
- An MVBC Chairperson;
- An MVBC Women’s Representative;
- An MVBC Chief Service Officer (CSO)

At least one of whom is a retired or current Regular member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

4.2 The MVBC Representatives will be elected by MVBC Members for four-year terms, aligned with the MNBC Election Cycle.

- a. In the event of a mid-term vacancy for an MVBC Representative, the Veteran Chairperson will seek applications for interested parties, in consultation with the relevant Regional Governance Council (RGC).

4.3 The Veteran Chairperson shall be elected by MVBC Members for a four-year term aligned with the MNBC Election Cycle.

4.4 The Women’s Veteran Representative and Chief Service Officer shall be appointed by the MVBC Committee, either from among themselves or from outside the MVBC Committee so long the persons appointed are Métis Veterans.

4.5 The MVBC Committee shall appoint from among themselves a Treasurer and a Membership Clerk.

4.6 The MVBC Committee shall be responsible for the following duties and functions on behalf of the Métis Veterans British Columbia:

- a) Maintenance of policy and procedures relating to the conduct and mandate of the Métis Veterans;
- b) Maintenance of a list of all Métis Veterans in British Columbia as defined by Article Three (3);
- c) Provide an annual report at the MNBC Annual General Meeting and March MNGA.

- d) Provide written documentation regarding Veteran input to MNBC Board of Directors as required.
 - e) Serve as Gabriel Dumont Scouts as may be requested by MNBC. from time to time;
 - f) Co-ordinate and organize flag processions and flag placement as requested from time to time; and other duties as required;
 - g) Advocate to enhance the status of Métis Veterans;
 - h) Provide service and support to Métis Veterans in British Columbia;
 - i) Represent themselves as Métis Veterans at advisory tables and initiatives across municipal, provincial, federal and international levels; and commemorative events as requested.
- 4.7 Meetings of the MVBC Committee shall be called by the Chairperson. If the Chairperson is unwilling or unable to call a meeting, three MVBC Committee members may call a meeting.
- 4.8 No less than seven (7) days' notice of an MVBC Committee meeting will be provided to all MVBC Committee members.

C. Strike Article 5 and insert the following in its place:

ARTICLE 5 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 5.1 The Executive Committee consists of the members MVBC Committee appointed or elected as MVBC Chairperson, MVBC Women's Representative, Chief Service Officer, Treasurer and Membership Clerk.
- 5.2 The Executive Committee shall meet on a regular basis, the schedule to be determined by the members of the Executive Committee.
- 5.3 The Executive Committee is responsible for dealing with duties or matters delegated to it by the MVBC Committee.
- 5.4 Between MVBC Committee Meetings, the Executive Committee is authorized by the MVBC Committee to make decisions on behalf of the MVBC Committee, and to make decisions regarding any urgent circumstances.
- 5.4 The Executive Committee is required to report to the MVBC Committee, at



the earliest opportunity, any decisions made by the Executive Committee

- 5.5 The MVBC Chairperson, or two members of the Executive Committee, may call a meeting. Notice of an Executive Committee meeting must be provided 24 hours before the meeting, but can be waived by unanimous consent of Executive Committee members.

RESOLUTION 5

SUBMITTED TO THE SUMMER 2025
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY



Subject:	Support of Governance Succession Planning
Legislation Affected:	n/a
Submitted by:	Cowichan Valley Métis Nation
Submitted to:	MNGA Clerk
Date Submitted:	April 22, 2025
Vote Required for Approval:	Majority

WHEREAS

1. In any good governance, it is imperative to have a mechanism in place that allows for succession.
2. Elected persons who sit on Councils need to feel confident that if they are not able to attend, their alternate is able to carry on with the governance and business of the day.
3. It is important that when the alternate sits on Council that they can provide good governance decisions that represents and support their Communities' values and views.
4. The alternates need to be funded so they can attend in person MNGAs and in person RGCs to gain experience and become familiar with what is required when they sit in the chair representing their Community.
5. Currently MNBC provides funding for travel and accommodation only for the President or Vice-President of each Community to attend the MNGA and related events.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The MNGA requests that MNBC Board of Directors approve MNBC to cover the cost supporting a second member of each Chartered Community to attend in-person MNGAs and related events, to assist with succession planning.



RESOLUTION 6

SUBMITTED TO THE SUMMER 2024
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

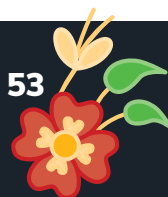
Subject:	Honorarium for Community Representatives at MNBC Meetings
Legislation Affected:	n/a
Submitted by:	Cowichan Valley Métis Nation
Submitted to:	MNGA Clerk
Date Submitted:	April 22, 2025
Vote Required for Approval:	Majority

WHEREAS

1. Most elected Community Presidents and Vice-Presidents are volunteers and do not receive compensation for their hours.
2. Some MNBC Presidents and Vice-Presidents have full time jobs, and to attend Governance meetings on behalf of their Community, many must take a leave without pay.
3. The customary practice of presenting an honorarium is typically presented to Elders, Cultural Leaders, or Knowledge Keepers, as a form of recognition and appreciation for their contributions, such as sharing traditional knowledge or conducting ceremonies. These payments are not intended as compensation but rather as a gesture of respect and gratitude.
4. Government of Canada “Overview of Honorariums and Gifts for First Nations, Inuit or Métis Recipients”, Clause 4.1 states:

The Directive on Payments defines an honorarium for First Nations, Inuit or Métis recipients as follows:

A benevolent payment made by the Crown to First Nations, Inuit, or Métis recipients used only when there is no other statutory, regulatory or policy vehicle to make such a payment. The payment is made to a First Nations, Inuit or Métis recipient, who is not a government employee, to recognize or honour the collaborative efforts made by



the recipient with respect to Indigenous ceremonies and other collaborative events or activities with the Government of Canada. The Payment can only be made where the Crown has no obligation of any kind, no legal liability, and where the recipient has no right of payment and is not entitled to compensation in any form.

5. Other MNBC elected persons receive recognition funding for various roles supporting Communities.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The MNGA request that MNBC Board of Directors approve a daily honorarium for an MNBC Community President, Vice-President or Representative, when they attend an in-person MNBC Métis Nation Governing Assembly, or Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Regional Governance Council (RGC), on behalf of their Community, based on the MNBC Honorarium Guidelines.



RESOLUTION 7

SUBMITTED TO THE SUMMER 2025
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Subject:	Role of President or VP in Community Board Member Representation
Legislation Affected:	n/a
Submitted by:	South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association
Submitted to:	MNGA Clerk
Date Submitted:	April 25, 2025
Vote Required for Approval:	Majority

WHEREAS

1. MNBC Citizens directly elect the President, Vice-President, and Regional Director to the MNBC Board of Directors.
2. The President and Vice-President represent all Métis Citizens across the Province of British Columbia, and the Regional Director represents their Region at the MNBC Board of Directors.
3. It is the responsibility of the Regional Director to ensure Community requests are communicated to the Board of Directors, in those areas where the Board has some influence or capacity.
4. Regional Directors are busy, and from time to time, may be unable or unwilling to provide requested information or take the requested action.
5. Community Board Members may have a closer relationship to the Vice-President or President.
6. It is important to preserve peace within the Nation.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The position of the MNGA is that Community Board Members may direct Community inquiries to the MNBC President or Vice-President, as appropriate, if:
 - If a Regional Director is unwilling or unable to address Community inquiries at the Board level, or



- The Community Board Member has an uncomfortable relationship with their Regional Director and seeks to use the Vice-President or President as an alternative representative, and
- The President or Vice-President is willing to stand in as an alternative representative for the Community Board Member.

RESOLUTION 8

SUBMITTED TO THE SUMMER 2025
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

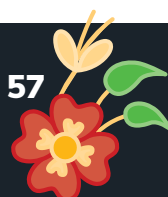


MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Subject:	Reinstatement of MNBC Citizenship for Individuals Previously Removed for Not Meeting Métis Homeland Criteria under the <i>Citizenship Act</i>
Legislation Affected:	n/a
Submitted by:	Cowichan Valley Métis Association
Submitted to:	MNGA Clerk
Date Submitted:	April 20, 2025
Vote Required for Approval:	Majority

WHEREAS

1. In any good governance, it is imperative to have current and historic information to verify Métis citizenship.
2. Métis Citizenship needs to be reviewed periodically, and updated to reflect changes brought on by new information, changes to Policy, etc.
3. With the new findings in the report provided by the Panel of Experts that conducted the review of the “Seven Communities” and if they were Historical Métis Communities as MNO has suggested, which comprise of the communities and areas listed below as:
 - 1) Northern Ontario Historic Métis Community;
Upper Great Lakes Métis Communities, inclusive of:
 - 2) Northern Lakes Superior Historic Métis Community,
 - 3) Sault Ste. Marie Historic Métis Community,
 - 4) Killarney Historic Métis Community.
 - 5) Georgian Bay Historic Métis Community,
 - 6) Abitibi Inland Historic Métis Community,
 - 7) Mattawa/Ottawa River Historic Métis Community.



4. The findings of the Expert Panel is that the Seven Communities represented by the Métis Nation of Ontario do meet the National Definition established by the *Métis National Council (MNC)* as adopted by all current and former Governing Members (MMF, OMG, MN-S, MNO, MNBC) and other Métis Governments (NWTMN), and in the experts' opinion that these communities are indeed an integral part to the Métis Nation and its Homeland.
5. Based on the National Definition of Métis that affirms that, "Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, and who is accepted by the Métis Nation".

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The Métis Nation British Columbia provide Citizenship for applicants who received letters stating they were not approved for Citizenship, or reinstate Citizenship for people removed from the Citizenship Registry because they could not provide family ties to a Historical Métis Homeland because at the time, MNBC did not recognize the seven Communities and areas as outlined in the report as Historical Métis Communities.



CONSTITUTION

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



RATIFIED – SEPTEMBER 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Original Ratification - September 27, 2003

Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia

Whereas the Métis People in British Columbia assert their inherent right of selfgovernment and hereby establish the Government of the Métis Nation British Columbia:

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

1. The Métis Nation is distinct within the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. The Métis are distinct from First Nations and Inuit and are the descendants of the historic Métis who evolved as a people with a common political will and consciousness.
2. Having experienced physical and political conflict and being deprived of property in the late 1800's, we are still engaged in a continuing struggle to rebuild our government and revive our cultural heritage and pride. As such, we are striving for the political, legal and constitutional recognition and guarantees of the rights of Métis people, including the right to a land and resource base, self-governance and self-government institutions. In order to achieve these objectives we are hereby re-establishing a strong and revitalized government within the province of British Columbia, which involves all sectors of Métis society.
3. In accordance with Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the Métis people are an Aboriginal people within Canada whose existing Aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized and affirmed.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF MÉTIS PEOPLE

4. The Métis Nation has the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right we, the citizens of the Métis Nation, will freely determine our political status and freely pursue our economic, social and cultural development.
5. The Métis Nation undertakes to respect and ensure to all Métis citizens within the Nation rights without distinction of any kind such as sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other views.



6. Métis men and Métis women equally enjoy all civil and political rights set forth in these articles.
7. Every Métis citizen has the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose their residence.
8. No Métis Citizen shall be subject to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on their honour or reputation.
9. Every Métis citizen has the right to freedom of thought, expression, conscience and religion.
10. Every Métis Citizen has the right of association and to assemble and organize at the community level. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those necessary to protect the peace and order of the Métis Nation as prescribed by the Métis Nation Governing Assembly.
11. Nothing in this Constitution abrogates or derogates from the rights Métis people have or may exercise under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA (MNBC) AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

12. Subject to the provisions of Article 46, the Board of Directors shall be comprised of the seven (7) Elected Regional Directors, the elected Chairperson for the Métis Women of British Columbia, the elected Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, the elected Chairperson for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council, the President and Vice-President for a total of twelve (12) Members.
 - 12.1. While serving in one of the positions noted in Article 12, a member of the MNBC Board of Directors may not hold a position on a Chartered Community Board.
13. The MNBC shall be responsible for ensuring that Communities, departments, programs and services are running smoothly and have the necessary resources to enable them to operate efficiently. This responsibility recognizes that funding may be limited, that there will be competing priorities for resources and that all requests for resources are unlikely to be met.
14. The Board of Directors shall provide a written Activity Report and a written Financial Report at each session of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly.
15. The Executive of the Board of Directors shall be comprised of four (4) Members: the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
16. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer to the Executive from among its Members.

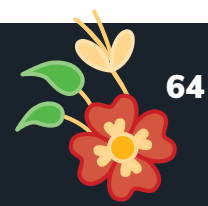
17. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to appoint Commissions, Committees or other subsidiary bodies, where they are deemed necessary in order to effectively carry out the activities and functions of the MNBC or the Métis Nation Governing Assembly. In appointing such bodies, the MNBC must ensure that adequate financial resources are available to permit the bodies to conduct their assigned activities and that all such bodies have clear terms of reference, including reporting requirements.
18. The Board of Directors shall designate persons who may have signing authority for the purposes of conducting the affairs of the MNBC and the Métis Nation Governing Assembly, which shall include the Treasurer.
19. The Board of Directors shall meet at least four (4) times per year at the call of the President or Vice-President in the absence of the President. The President or Vice-President as the case may be shall give two (2) days written notice of all MNBC meetings to all the Members of the MNBC. The two (2) day notice period may be waived by the Members in attendance at a meeting.
 - 19.1. A meeting of the Board of Directors can be called by a majority of the Board of Directors.
20. Quorum of the Board of Directors shall be the majority of the Board of Directors.
21. Decisions of the Board of Directors shall require a simple majority.
22. A person may not be a Member of the Board of Directors when they hold a salaried position directly with the Métis Nation Governing Assembly or the MNBC. This does not disqualify a person from being a Member of the Board of Directors when that person receives an honorarium, salary or per diem for performing the duties of that elected office.
23. A person is disqualified from being a Member of the Board of Directors when:
 - 23.1. They die.
 - 23.2. They resign.
 - 23.3. They are no longer the President of the MNBC, or are no longer the Vice- President of the MNBC or are no longer a Regional Director.
 - 23.4. They are no longer the Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia
 - 23.5. They are no longer the Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia.

- 23.6. They are no longer the Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
- 23.7. They are under eighteen (18) years of age.
- 23.8. They have been convicted of a criminal offence carrying a penalty of two (2) years or greater. A person disqualified from being a member of the MNBC by this sub-section may appeal that disqualification to the Senate.
- 23.9. They have clearly been identified as having breached their fiduciary duty to the Members or to Métis citizens.
24. A member of the Board of Directors shall not be removed from the Board of Directors for any reason other than as set out in Article 23 or through an election held in accordance with this Constitution.
25. A person may be suspended from being a Board Member of the Board of Directors, with or without pay, by a vote of the majority of the Members of the Board of Directors. A person so suspended may appeal the suspension to the Senate whose decision shall be final and binding.
26. Should there no longer be a President of the Board of Directors pursuant to Article 23 and 25, the Vice- President shall fulfill the Office of the President until a by-election is held to elect a new President in accordance with Article 46.
27. The Secretary or the Treasurer may resign from the Executive without being disqualified from being a Member of the Board of Directors.

MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY (MNGA)

28. There shall be established a Métis Nation Governing Assembly, which shall be the governing legislative body of the Métis Nation British Columbia.
29. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly shall be comprised of the elected Presidents or VicePresidents of Communities, the elected Regional Directors of the MNBC, the elected President and Vice-President of the MNBC, the elected Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, the elected Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, and the elected Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Governance Council.
- 29.1. In the event a Community President is unable to attend a General Assembly, the Community's Vice-President may represent that Community.

- 29.2. If the Provincial Chair of the Métis Women of British Columbia is unable to attend a Governing Assembly, the MWBC Vice-Chair may attend in their place.
- 29.3. If the Provincial Chair of the Métis Youth of British Columbia is unable to attend a Governing Assembly, the MYBC Vice-Chair may attend in their place so long as they are at least 18 years of age.
30. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly shall review and ratify legislation, regulations, rules, resolutions and constitutional amendments for presentation and final ratification at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.
31. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly shall have the authority to appoint Commissions, Committees or other subsidiary bodies, where they are deemed necessary in order to effectively carry out their legislative duties. In appointing such bodies, the Métis Nation Governing Assembly must ensure that adequate financial resources are available to permit the bodies to conduct their assigned activities and that all such bodies have clear terms of reference, including reporting requirements.
32. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly shall meet at least three (3) times per year in British Columbia at a meeting on a date decided upon by the Métis Nation Governing Assembly at the previous meeting. The meetings shall be held at least three (3) months prior to the MNBC Annual General Meeting, except as required in Article 32.1. Meetings may take place over one (1) or two (2) days, as determined by the Métis Nation Governing Assembly. Two meetings will be virtually and one in-person, or as determined by the Métis Nation Governing Assembly. The notice requirement does not apply to Article 32.1.
- 32.1. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly shall, subject to the availability of financial resources, meet at the request of the MNBC or on the request of a Regional Governance Council, at such times and in such manner as may be appropriate in the circumstances, including but not limited to electronic or telephone communication, to consider motions that may have, as their effect, the resolve of matters that are urgent or require a decision prior to the next annual sitting of the MNGA.
33. Fifty (50) per cent plus one of the Members of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly constitutes a quorum. However quorum must include a majority of the MNBC Board of Directors.
34. A person is disqualified from being a Member of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly when:
- 34.1. They die.



- 34.2. They resign.
- 34.3. They are no longer the President or Vice-President of a Community.
- 34.4. They are no longer the Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia.
- 34.5. They are no longer the Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia.
- 34.6. They are under eighteen (18) years of age, except for the Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia.
- 34.7. They are no longer the Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council
- 34.8. They have clearly breached their fiduciary duty to the Members or the Métis citizens.
- 35. A person may be suspended temporarily or permanently from being a Member of the MNGA by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Members present. A person so suspended may appeal the suspension to the Senate whose decision shall be final and binding.

ELECTIONS

- 36. Any Métis citizen who is eighteen (18) years of age or older may vote or seek elected office within the Métis Nation Governing Assembly, the Board of Directors or a Community.
- 37. Any female Métis citizen who is eighteen (18) years of age or older may vote or seek elected office within the Métis Women of British Columbia.
- 38. Any Métis citizen who is between fifteen (15) years of age and thirty (30) years of age may vote or seek elected office within the Métis Youth of British Columbia, except for the office of Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia.
 - 38.1. Any Métis Citizen who is between eighteen (18) years of age and thirty (30) years of age may seek the elected office of Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia.
- 39. Any Métis Citizen who self-identifies as 2SLGBTQQIA+ and is of eighteen (18) years of age or older may vote or seek elected office for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
- 40. Any person seeking elected office must have been a resident of British Columbia at least twelve (12) months prior to the date of the election and must have been a resident of a Region at least six (6) months prior to the date of the election in order to seek elected office as a Community President or Regional Director.

41. To vote in an election, a person must have been a resident of British Columbia at least twelve (12) months prior to the date of the election and must have been a resident of a Region at least six (6) months prior to the date of the election in order to vote for a Community President or Regional Director. A person who wishes to vote for a Community President or Regional Director, but has not been a resident of a Region for six (6) months may vote for a Community President or Regional Director in the Region that they lived immediately prior to the election, provided that they meet the other voting requirements.
42. The President and the Vice-President of the Board of Directors, the Chairperson for the Métis Women of British Columbia, the Chairperson for the Métis Youth of British Columbia, and the Chairperson for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall be elected by a province-wide ballot.
43. Elections for the Board of Directors shall be held once every four (4) years on any date within 6 months prior to the 4th year anniversary.
44. Elections for the Métis Nation Governing Assembly who are not also Members of the Board of Directors shall be held at least every two (2) years.
45. There shall be no limits on the number of terms that may be served by anyone elected to the Métis Nation Governing Assembly, the Board of Directors or a Community.
46. In order to run for elected office in the Board of Directors, a candidate must provide a Criminal Record Check from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or Municipal Police Detachment to the Chief Electoral Officer with the filed nomination papers for the purpose of satisfying Article 23.7. The results and content of the Criminal Record Check shall not be made public, unless the candidate voluntarily consents in writing.
47. Subject to available financial resources, a by-election shall be held within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of any vacancy on the Board of Directors or of any elected position at the regional level. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President and financial resources are unavailable, the sitting Vice-President will fill the office of President and the Board of Directors will appoint, from among them, a person to fill the office of Vice-President until a by-election or election is held for that position.
- 47.1. In the case of a vacancy in the position of the Provincial Women's Chairperson, an interim chairperson will be recommended to the MNGA by the Board of Directors on the advice of the MWBC Provincial Governance Council.

- 47.2. In the case of a vacancy in the position of the Provincial Youth Chairperson, an interim chairperson will be recommended to the MNGA by the Board of Directors on the advice of the MYBC Committee;
- 47.3. In the case of a vacancy in the position of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council Chairperson, an interim chairperson will be recommended to the MNGA by the Board of Directors on the advice of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
- 47.4. In the case of any other vacancy on the Board of Directors, an interim Director, as selected by the RGC will be recommended to the MNGA by the Board of Directors and if approved by the MNGA, the vacancy shall be filled by the interim Director. In the case of a vacancy in a position of a MWBC Regional Representative or MYBC Regional Representative, an interim Representative will be recommended to the MNGA by the respective RGC, and if approved by the MNGA, the vacancy shall be filled by the interim representative. An interim Director or Representative shall be subject to Article 45 of the Constitution.
48. When nominations close, all candidates holding a salaried position with the MNBC or MNGA must submit in writing, notice of a leave of absence.

SENATE

49. The Senate shall be responsible for the provisions outlined in the legislation known as the Senate Act.
50. The Senate shall be comprised of seven (7) Senators. Each of the seven (7) Regions shall appoint one (1) Senator in the manner and process as set out in the Senate Act.
51. In order to be considered for a Senate appointment, a Senate candidate must be a Métis citizen and must have provided a Criminal Record Check from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or Municipal Police Detachment to the MNBC who will review the Criminal Record Check in confidence to ensure compliance with sub-section 54.3. The results and content of the Criminal Record Check shall not be made public, unless the Senate candidate voluntarily consents in writing.
52. No Senator may hold any elected or salaried position within the Board of Directors, MNGA, Community, or subsidiary Board, Commission or Committee, Métis Women of British Columbia or the Métis Youth of British Columbia and must resign from any such position prior to appointment to the Senate.

53. Senators shall be appointed for a term and conditions as set out in the Senate Act.
54. A person ceases to be a Senator when:
- 54.1. They resign.
 - 54.2. They die.
 - 54.3. They have been convicted of a criminal offence carrying a penalty over two (2) years (2) years or greater.
 - 54.4. They take a salaried position prohibited by Article 51.
 - 54.5. Or as outlined in the provisions of the Senate Act.
55. The Board of Directors shall determine the rate of remuneration and expenses for the first term of the Senate. Thereafter, the Board of Directors shall determine the rate of remuneration and expenses for the Senate, based on financial resources, which may be available for that purpose.

COMMUNITIES

56. Communities shall be the basic unit of the Métis Government. No community (city, town, municipality or unincorporated municipal unit) shall have more than one (1) Community.
- 56.1. Communities seeking chartered designation shall require written approval by motion of seventy five (75) percent of the Applicable Regional Governance Council members and such motion to be submitted to the MNGA;
 - 56.2. Geographical boundaries of Community/Communities seeking Community Governance Charter shall be submitted as part of the motion to the MNGA;
 - 56.3. Ratification by seventy five (75) percent of the MNGA is required.
57. A Community shall be made up of at least twenty-five (25) Members who are Métis Citizens eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- 57.1. If a group of Métis Citizens residing in a city, town, municipality or unincorporated municipal unit in which there is no existing Chartered Community, that group of Citizens may apply to the applicable Regional Governance Council for interim Chartered Community designation (hereinafter referred to as an “Interim Chartered Community”

or having “Interim Chartered Community Status” as the case may be) provided the application is signed by at least 15 Members who are Métis Citizens eighteen (18) years of age or older.

- 57.2 The process for seeking Interim Chartered Community Status must follow the process set out in Articles 55.1, 55.2 and 55.3 of this Constitution.
- 57.3 If the application is approved by the MNGA, Interim Chartered Community Status can be granted for a maximum two (2) year period from the date ratification is confirmed by the MNGA, or when the Interim Chartered Community achieves twenty-five (25) Members and then applies for Chartered Community status pursuant to the provisions of Article 55, and then is approved.
- 57.4 An Interim Chartered Community shall have observer status at an MNGA, and shall not have voting rights.
- 57.5 An Interim Chartered Community may receive benefits and services from MNBC at the sole discretion of the MNBC.

- 58. Métis communities recognized by the MNBC Constitution and Legislation are required to enter into Community Governance Charters that define an affiliated relationship for financial and political accountability, mutual recognition and dispute resolution. Hereinafter known as “Community Governance Charter”.
- 59. All Communities shall, as soon as possible, enact a Constitution that is consistent with this Constitution.

REGIONS

- 60. In the event that a Community is in contravention of the terms of its Community Governance Charter or of the provisions of the MNBC Constitution, the Board of Directors will do all within its ability to assist the community to come into compliance within the Community Governance Charter and/or MNBC Constitution as the case may be and, in the event the Community, in the discretion of the Board of Directors, remains or continues to be noncompliant, the Board of Directors shall make such recommendations to the MNGA as may be deemed appropriate, with the effect of dissolving that community’s Community Governance Charter and affiliation with the MNBC.

60.1 There shall be seven (7) Regions as set out in the adjacent map:

- Region 1 Vancouver Island
- Region 2 Lower Mainland
- Region 3 Thompson/Okanagan
- Region 4 Kootenays
- Region 5 North Central
- Region 6 Northwest
- Region 7 Northeast



61. There shall be formed in each Region a Regional Governance Council comprised of the Presidents of the Communities in each respective Region, the Métis Youth of British Columbia Regional Representative, Regional Director, the Métis Women of British Columbia Regional Representative, and the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council Regional Representative. The Regional Director shall be the non-voting Chairperson of the Regional Governance Council.

61.1 All members of a Regional Governance Council must be registered with the Métis Nation British Columbia Central Registry as MNBC Citizens.

61.2 Each Regional Governance Council will meet at minimum four times per year. The meeting may be in person, by phone, or by video link. Time and space will be provided for Regional Governance Council Meetings at MNBC Governing Assemblies and Annual General Meetings at the request of the Regional Governance Council.

61.3 Regional Governance Councils are responsible for: informing MNBC of Chartered Community efforts and opportunities for the purpose of obtaining support from MNBC Ministries, MNBC political relationships, assisting in prioritizing the aspirations of MNBC annual and ongoing budgeting efforts, and inform the search for new funding opportunities. Regional Governance Councils are also responsible for informing Community leadership of progress and developments in all MNBC portfolios to ensure a well-informed Métis Governance, and provide opportunities for feedback and concerted efforts. MNBC leadership is responsible for consulting and engaging with Regional Governance Councils regarding all relevant agreements impacting Citizens.

61.4 Quorum for Regional Governance Councils is a simple majority of Council Members.

61.5 Regional Governance Councils may be called by the Regional Director or a simple

majority of Council Members.

- 61.6 Written notice of the date, time, and location of a Regional Governance Council meeting must be provided to each member listed in Article 60 at least five (5) days before the meeting. This notice requirement may be waived by unanimous consent of the Regional Governance Council members.”
- 61.7 If a member of the Regional Governance Council has been disqualified from being a member of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly pursuant to any of the provisions under Article 34, or if they have suspended from being a member of the MNGA pursuant to the provisions of Article 35, such disqualification or suspension shall also apply to their membership and participation in the applicable Regional Governance Council.
- 61.8 If the President of a Community is unable to attend an RGC meeting, each Chartered Community Board may designate an Elected Board Member of the Chartered Community to participate with voting privileges, provided they are a Métis Citizen . If a Regional Youth Representative is unable to attend an RGC meeting, that Representative may designate a Community Youth Representative to participate with voting privileges, provided they are a Metis Citizen.

CITIZENSHIP

62. Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples and is accepted by the Métis Nation.
- 62.1. “Historic Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people then known as Métis or HalfBreeds who resided in Historic Métis Nation Homeland.
- 62.2. “Historic Métis Nation Homeland” means the area of land in west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-Breeds as they were then known.
- 62.3. “Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation, which is now comprised of all Métis Nation citizens and is one of the “aboriginal peoples of Canada” within Section 35 of the Constitution Act of 1982.
- 62.4. “Distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples” means distinct for cultural and nationhood purposes.
63. The MNBC has a unique citizenship card for citizens of the Métis Nation in BC. These cards are

numbered and the numbers recorded in the central registry by the office of the registrar.

64. Citizenship cards shall be issued to all Métis upon a person presenting themselves for citizenship and satisfying the definition set out above.
65. Where there is a dispute as to citizenship, a ruling shall be made by the Senate in accordance with the provisions of the Senate Act or the policies and procedures to be developed by the Senate, which ruling shall be final and binding.

MÉTIS INDEPENDENCE

66. The Métis Nation is seeking a third order of government within Canada, so the Métis Nation is non-partisan in respect of federal and provincial politics. This does not restrict the right of Métis individuals to hold Memberships in or to express personal opinions about federal, provincial, municipal partisan politics.
67. Any person seeking federal government or provincial government elected office shall take an unpaid leave of absence from any elected position that they may hold with the MNBC, MNGA, and Senate, Community or subsidiary Board, Commission or Committee at the close of nominations. Any person elected to federal government or provincial government elected office shall resign from any elected position that they may hold with the MNBC, MNGA, Senate, Community or subsidiary Board, Commission or Committee.
68. All Members of the Board of Directors, MNGA and Senate shall swear an Oath of Allegiance prior to taking office.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

69. An Annual General Meeting of the Métis Nation British Columbia must be held annually. The precise dates and locations of an AGM must be determined at the AGM immediately preceding that AGM. The agenda for each AGM shall include:
 - 69.1. Audited Financial Report for Previous Fiscal Year
 - 69.2. President's Report for Previous Fiscal Year
 - 69.3. Business of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly
 - 69.4. Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia Secretariat Annual Report.
 - 69.5. Separate audited financial annual reports for each subsidiary company/companies,

limited corporations or sole proprietorship registered under the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (MPCBC) shall be appended to the MNBC Financial Audited Report.

70. Only persons who have registered as a Métis Citizen pursuant to the MNBC Citizenship Act, and are registered as a MNBC Citizen within the MNBC Central Registry, are entitled to speak and be issued voting credentials at a MNBC AGM or SGM.

SECRETARIAT

71. A Secretariat known as the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia shall be continued or created under the BC Society Act for the sole purpose of carrying out the administrative duties of the MNBC, MNGA and the Senate.
72. The Board of Directors of the Secretariat shall be the Members of the MNBC.

AMENDMENT

73. All legislation, legislative amendments, constitutional amendments and resolutions shall be considered and given first reading by the MNGA in accordance with the provisions of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act.
74. This Constitution will only be amended by the following process:
- 74.1. Any amendment must be ratified by the MNGA, pursuant to the legislation of the MNGA Act;
- 74.2. Amendments ratified by the MNGA are then presented for final approval to the Citizens present at the MNBC AGM.
- 74.3. At least seventy-five (75%) of votes cast in favor of the proposed amendment is required for ratification.



BYLAWS OF METIS PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
(the "MPCBC" or the "Society" as the case may be)

1. Definitions

"Act" means the Societies Act of British Columbia as amended from time to time;
"AGM" means the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

"Board" or "Board of Directors" means the Directors of the Métis Nation British Columbia (the "MNBC") which are the MNBC President; Vice-President; Métis Women's Provincial Representative; the Métis Youth Provincial Representative; the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council Representative/Chairperson; and the Regional Directors.

"Bylaws" means these Bylaws as may be altered from time to time.

"Community" means those individuals who, residing in a defined geographical area, are related to each other through Métis connections of a historical, cultural, or traditional nature.

"Constituent" means an individual who has a connection with a Métis Community and wishes to enjoin with Métis Citizens in celebrating the Métis cultural heritage. A Constituent shall not be entitled to a vote at meetings of the Society.

"Director" means a member of the Board of Directors.

"Distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples" means distinct for cultural and nationhood purposes.

"Member" means a Métis Citizen

"Métis Citizen" or "Citizen" as the case may be, means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples and is accepted by the Métis Nation as a Métis Citizen in accordance with the provisions of the Citizenship Act.



“Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal peoples descended from the Historic Métis Nation, which is now comprised of all Métis Nation Citizens and is one of the “aboriginal peoples of Canada” within s.35 of the Constitution Act of 1982.

“Métis Nation British Columbia (the “MNBC”) means the governing body of the Métis Citizens and Métis Communities in British Columbia which has as its Constitution the Constitution of the MNBC and as its administrative arm and secretariat, the MPCBC. “Officer” means a person elected or appointed with the authority to sign documents and agreements on behalf of MPCBC if so authorized by the Board of Directors.

“SGM” means a special general meeting of the Society.

- 1.1 Subject to the Definitions herein provided the Definitions in the Act shall apply to these Bylaws.
- 1.2 In these Bylaws, words importing the singular include the plural and visa versa and words importing a gender applies to both genders.
- 1.3 Unless specified to the contrary in these Bylaws, any conflict between the provisions of these Bylaws and the Act or the regulations to the Act the provisions of the Act or the regulations will prevail.

2. Membership

- 2.1 Annual Dues, if any, shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 2.2 Constituents shall not be deemed to be Métis Citizens and shall not be entitled to a vote.
- 2.3 A person shall cease to be a Member in the event of the following:
 - a) upon delivering a written letter of resignation to the Society or that Member’s Regional Director;
 - b) the death of the Member; or
 - c) the removal of the Member as a result of being confirmed on the Indian Registry System as maintained by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.
- 2.5 Any Member may be suspended or removed from the Society or have their name removed from the list of the Members of the Society by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote at an AGM or SGM called for that purpose if notice of that suspension or removal is given to that person at least 30 days prior to the AGM or SGM and that person has had an opportunity to give an oral and/or written response to the suspension or removal.
- 2.6 Notice of a suspension or removal shall be made to the Member being suspended or

removed in a written document which describes in plain, unambiguous language, the proposed suspension or removal and the reasons therefore as described in the MNBC policy and procedure manual as amended from time to time.

- 2.7 A Member shall not be suspended or removed from the Society or have their name removed from the list of Members in any way except as is set out in these Bylaws.
- 2.8 No Member may be suspended for more than four (4) years. A suspended Member may not run for any office or sit on any board.
- 2.9 The Society will strive to ensure that the Society its Members and Constituents gain fair benefit from, and have equal access to, all aboriginal programs in Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

3 Meetings

- 3.1 A general meeting shall be held at the time and place that the Board determines.
- 3.2 Ordinary business to be conducted at a general meeting includes the following:
 - a) adoption of the rules of order;
 - b) financial statements of the Society;
 - c) consideration of officers, Directors or auditors reports, if any;
 - d) election or appointment of Directors when applicable;
 - e) appointment of an auditor, if required;
 - f) business arising out of a report of the directors not requiring the passing of a special resolution; and
 - g) such other matters as shall be included on the Agenda for that AGM.
- 3.3 Annual General Meetings ("AGM") shall be held in September of each year with no less than fourteen (14) days' notice to the Members at a time, date and location chosen by the Board of Directors and, unless otherwise specified, shall be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the MNBC. The agenda for each AGM shall be provided to the Members no less than fourteen (14) days before the date of the AGM.
- 3.4 Special or Extraordinary General meetings ("SGM") shall be held when circumstances deemed required by the Board of Directors on seven (7) days' notice to the Members
- 3.5 Notice of an AGM or SGM shall be provided to Members by facsimile, email or post at the last known facsimile number, email contact or address and must state the nature



of any business, other than ordinary business, to be transacted at the meeting in sufficient detail to permit a member receiving the notice to form a reasoned judgment concerning that business.

- 3.6 Only Members shall be entitled to participate at an AGM or SGM. Only those Members who are 18 years of age or older on the date of the AGM or SGM; who have been a resident of British Columbia for at least 12 months prior to the date of the AGM or SGM; will be entitled to vote at a AGM or SGM.
- 3.7 Except for Annual General Meetings that are held in conjunction with the MNBC AGM the Chair for a general meeting shall be the President of the MNBC. If the President is unavailable the Vice-President shall act as Chair and in the event the President and Vice President are unavailable the voting Members in attendance at the meeting shall elect an individual from the Members present at the meeting.
- 3.8 The quorum for the transaction of business at a general meeting is thirty-six (36) of the voting members.
- 3.9 If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the time set for the meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned to a date to be set by the Board of Directors and if a quorum is not present at that meeting within 30 minutes of the time set for that meeting, the Members who are present for that meeting constitute a quorum.
- 3.10 Voting at a general meeting shall be by voting cards or in the absence of such by a show of hands unless a secret ballot vote is requested by a majority of the members in attendance.
- 3.11 Voting by proxy is not permitted.
- 3.12 All matters to be decided at a general meeting are decided by ordinary resolution and adopted by simple majority unless the matter is required, by these Bylaws to be decided by a special resolution or another resolution with a higher voting threshold.

4. Directors

- 4.1 A Directors' meeting may be called by the President or by two (2) other Directors on seven (7) days' notice unless that notice period is waived by the Directors.

- 4.2 50% of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.
- 4.3 The President of the Society and in their absence, the Vice-President shall be the Chairperson for meetings of the Board of Directors. In the event the President or Vice-President is not available or does not attend at a meeting of the Board of Directors, the Directors in attendance at the meeting shall, upon confirming quorum, appoint a Director from among them to be the chairperson for the meeting.
- 4.4 The Board of Directors may exercise all the powers and do all the acts and things that the Society may do and may, in the exercise of their duties and on behalf of and in the name of the Society, raise or secure funds and the payment or repayment of money in the manner they decide.
- 4.5 The Board of Directors may institute annual Membership fees and such other fees or charges as are reasonable and necessary for application for membership or for the provision of services by the Society.
- 4.6 An officer who has been appointed to hold an office as set out in Sub-Article 3.2 may be suspended or removed from office by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at attendance at a meeting of the Board called for that purpose. The suspension or removal of a Director from a position as an officer does not suspend or remove that Director from his or her position as a director.
- 4.7 A Director may be removed from office:
- a) when the Director is disqualified;
 - b) when the Director is convicted of a criminal offence carrying a penalty of two years or greater; or
 - c) when the Director has been removed by a majority vote of the Members in attendance and entitled to vote at an AGM or an SGM when notice of that Director's removal has been provided to the Director prior to the AGM or SGM.
- A Director so removed may appeal the removal to the Senate whose decision shall be final and binding.
- 4.8 A Director ceases to be a Director when that Director
- a) dies;
 - b) resigns by written instrument delivered to the Society;
 - c) ceases to be the President of the MNBC, or is no longer the Vice-President

of the MNBC, or is no longer a Regional Director of the MNBC, or is no longer the Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, or is no longer the Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia; or is no longer the Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council; d) ceases to be a Citizen; e) is convicted of a criminal offence carrying a penalty of two years or greater; or f) is removed as a Director in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws.

4.9 A Director may be suspended by a vote of the majority of the Members of the Board of Directors. A Director so suspended may appeal the suspension to the Senate whose decision shall be final and binding. A suspension may be with or without pay at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

4.10 A Director shall be given notice of any proposed resolution to remove or suspend that Director and he or she shall be given an opportunity to speak to the Board of Directors or to the Society Members in attendance at an AGM or SGM where the removal or suspension will be subject to discussion and/or vote.

4.11 In the event of a vacancy in the Board of Directors and subject to available financial resources, a by-election shall be held within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of vacancy except in the case of the office of President. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President and financial resources are unavailable, the sitting Vice-President will fill the office of President and the Board of Directors will appoint, from among them, a person to fill the office of Vice-President until a by-election or election is held for that purpose. In the case of any other vacancy on the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors will request the assistance of the MNGA who, in consultation with the relevant Regional Governance Council where appropriate, appoint a Director to fill the vacancy for such term and with such rights of participation in all of the governance processes as may be determined by the MNGA.

4.12 A Director may be remunerated for performing their duties as a director.

5.1 Relationship with MNBC

5.2 The Society acknowledges that the MNBC is the governing Provincial body of the Métis Citizens in British Columbia and in the geographical Area of the Society and shall, as the Administrative arm and secretariat of the MNBC, provide such support and assistance to the MNBC to fulfill its governance role as may be appropriate or required.

5.3 Any provisions of these Bylaws that are inconsistent with the MNBC Constitution shall be null and void as it relates to that matter. The Society acknowledges that the governance of the Society is intended to be consistent with the provisions of the MNBC Constitution and Legislated Acts.

6.1 **Financial**

6.2 The Society shall be the subject of an Audit each year by an auditor in good standing in the Province of British Columbia.

7.1 **Dissolution**

7.2 On the winding up or dissolution of the Society any and all assets remaining after all the just debts of the Society have been paid shall be transferred to a society having a charitable purpose similar to that of the Society. Any transfer of assets to such society shall be sufficient to discharge any and all obligations and responsibilities of the Society in relation to those assets.

8.1 **Amendment**

8.2 Subject to the amendment by the MNBC Board of Directors of matters that are “Housekeeping Matters” as defined in the *Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act*, these Bylaws shall only be amended by a Special Resolution requiring the approval of at least 75% of the Society Members in attendance at a AGM or SGM where no less than fifteen (15) days notice of the proposed amendment has been given.

8.3 Amendments to Bylaws 1, Definition of Constituent; 2.3; 2.4; and 3.6 shall only be amended by a Special Resolution requiring the approval of at least 85% of the Members in attendance at an AGM or SGM where no less than thirty (30) days notice of the proposed amendment has been provided to the Members.

8.4 Except as provided elsewhere in these Bylaws, all proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be registered with the Board of Directors no less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the AGM or SGM and if approved, shall come into effect on the later of the date at which it is filed with the registrar of Societies or the date specified in the special resolution.

8.5 All approved amendments to the Bylaws shall be appended to the Bylaws.

MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY ACT

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



RATIFIED – SEPTEMBER 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ARTICLE ONE - TITLE

1.0 This Act may be cited as “*The Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act*”

ARTICLE TWO - INTERPRETATION

2.0 In this Act:

- 2.1. “**Abstain**” or “**Abstention**” means a member has not voted, reducing the total number of votes cast on a matter. A call for abstentions during voting may be made by the Clerk or designate to confirm quorum.
- 2.2 “**Act**” shall mean the Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act.
- 2.3 “**Chartered Community**” are those Métis Communities that have entered in a Community Governance Charter agreement with the MNBC.
- 2.4 “**Co-Speakers**” means the two people elected as Co-Speakers at the MNGA.
- 2.5 “**Constitution**” shall mean the Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia (the “MNBC”) as amended from time to time.
- 2.6 “**Clerk**” shall mean the Clerk of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly.
- 2.7 “**Community Governance Charter**” means the written document that shall set out the terms of the relationship between a Community and the MNBC.
- 2.8 “**Conflict of Interest**” means that a member, an immediate family member, or a close business associate of the member:
- Has a personal or professional interest in the matter at hand that is separate from their role as an MNGA member; and,
 - The interest is distinct from the interests of the Assembly and/or Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), such that the activities could negatively affect MNBC’s ability or authority to negotiate on behalf of and represent Métis people in British Columbia; and,



- Stands to realize a personal or professional benefit from a favourable decision on the matter that does not provide a similar benefit to MNBC or its Chartered Communities; or,
- Will provide a benefit to a Métis organization other than MNBC or its Chartered Communities.

And that the interest means that a reasonable person would conclude that the interest or personal benefit to be gained could influence or affect the decision-making of a member.

- 2.9 **“Deputy Speaker”** shall mean the Deputy Speaker of the MNGA.
- 2.10 **“Executive”** shall mean the Executive members of the MNBC who are elected provincewide and which includes the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- 2.11 **“Gabriel Dumont Scout”** or **“Dumont Scouts”** shall mean the individual or individuals appointed and responsible for the keeping of the peace at the MNGA, named in honor of Gabriel Dumont’s peacemakers historically called ‘Scouts.’
- 2.12 **“Governance Cycle”** means the cycle of MNGA meetings and the AGM that occurs yearly, starting with MNGAs in the Winter (December), Spring (March), and Summer (June), and concluding with the AGM in September of each year.



- 2.13 **“Governing Assembly”** shall mean a meeting of the MNGA as set out in the Constitution.
- 2.14 **“Housekeeping Matters”** in the context of an amendment, addition or replacement of an Article contained in or proposed for Legislations of the Constitution means those matters that do not affect the meaning of intent of the Article of the subject Legislation of the Constitution. In the event of ambiguity, the proposed amendment, addition or replacement of an Article contained in or proposed for Legislation of the Constitution shall be deemed to be not a Housekeeping Matter.”

- 2.15 **“Immediate Family Member”** means the parent, step-parent, foster parent, sibling, spouse or common-law spouse, ward, parents, or other relative permanently residing with a member
- 2.16 **“Legislation”** means laws and/or acts , and includes resolutions that introduce new or amend existing laws and/or acts.
- 2.17 **“Métis Nation Governing Assembly”** (MNGA) means the legislative body of the MNBC, as set out in the Constitution.
- 2.18 **“Métis Nation British Columbia”** means, the organization that represents the Métis Citizens pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution.
- 2.19 **“Métis Nation British Columbia”** (MNBC) means the organization which is comprised of the Regional Representatives (“Directors”), the Executive (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer), Chairperson from the Métis Women of British Columbia, Chairperson of the Métis Youth BC Council, and the Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council, and which represents the Métis Citizens and for the purpose of this Act will be referred to as the MNBC.
- 2.20 **“Orders of the Day”** shall mean the compilation of documentation for members of the MNGA including the Agenda, Reports, Minutes, Draft Legislation, Motions and Constitutional Amendments to be tabled at a General Assembly of the MNGA.
- 2.21 **“Regions”** shall mean the MNBC regions as are defined by the Constitution.
- 2.22 **“Roll Call”** shall mean the call to order of a General Assembly.
- 2.23 **“Senate”** shall mean the MNBC Senate.
- 2.24 **“Speaker”** shall mean the Speaker of the MNGA.
- 2.25 **“Urgent Business”** means business of a time sensitive matter that requires the attention of the MNGA in the current governance cycle.



ARTICLE THREE - COMPOSITION OF THE MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

3.0 In this Act:

3.1 The MNGA shall be composed of:

- a) The MNBC Executive as represented by the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary; plus the Regional Directors, Métis Women of British Columbia Chairperson, MYBC Chairperson, the Chairperson for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Governing Council; and
- b) The Presidents of the Chartered Communities of the MNBC.

3.1.1 A person shall hold one member position at MNGA meetings. If the person holds more than one role that is part of the membership of the MNGA as set out in 3.1 above, they must inform the Clerk of the role they will be fulfilling.

3.2 In the event a Community President is unable to attend a Governing Assembly, the Community's Vice-President may represent that Community.

3.3 All MNGA voting delegates must be registered with the Métis Nation British Columbia Central Registry in accordance with the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act.

3.3.1 Prior to representing their Community at the MNGA, the President and VicePresident of each Community must make a declaration with the Clerk of the MNGA, or designate, affirming that they are not in a Conflict of Interest as per Article 2.8 of this Act.

3.4 If the Provincial Chair of the Métis Women of British Columbia is unable to attend a Governing Assembly, the MWBC Vice-Chair may attend in their place.

3.5 If the Provincial Chair of the Métis Youth of British Columbia is unable to attend a Governing Assembly, the MYBC Vice-Chair may attend in their place, so long as they are at least 18 years of age.

3.6 If a member has a conflict of interest on a matter at the MNGA they must:

- a) Disclose in general terms to the other members the nature of their involvement;

- b) Refrain from voting on the resolution or consenting to a resolution;
- c) Leave the meeting while the matter is under discussion; and
- d) Refrain from any action intended to influence the discussion or vote.
 - i. If the member complies with Article 3.4, the minutes will reflect the disclosure, the general nature of the conflict disclosed, the time the member withdrew from the meeting, and the time they returned.

3.7 Despite Article 3.6c, the member experiencing the conflict may remain in the meeting for the purpose of providing information if asked to do so by another member. Once the information is provided and the Assembly has begun to deliberate, the member experiencing the conflict must leave the meeting.

3.8 A person who is listed in any official registry as a decision-maker of a Métis political organization or Métis government that does not recognize MNBC as the representative government of Métis in British Columbia, shall be deemed to be in automatic conflict of interest and may not participate in the MNGA, except as noted in Article 3.5, until they provide proof that they are no longer a member of that Métis organization or Métis government.

- a) Métis organizations which, by their mandate and actions, are primarily advocacy organizations, are not considered political organizations for the purposes of this Act.

3.9 If a member wishes the MNGA to determine if another member has a conflict of interest, they shall provide notice of a motion to the MNGA Clerk or designate no later than 14 days prior to the MNGA.

- a) Such a resolution must include the following:
 - i. The name and position of the person believed to have a conflict of interest;
 - ii. Briefly indicate the nature of the conflict of interest;
 - iii. Indicate the consequence if the MNGA determines the person has a conflict of interest, specifically, whether they are removed under Article 3.11 or 3.12 below.

And, attached to the resolution:

- i. A maximum one-page summary of the conflict of interest, and
- ii. Any available proof of the conflict of interest.



A template of the resolution and attachments may be requested from the MNGA Clerk or designate.

- a) Upon receipt of such a resolution, the MNGA Clerk or designate will:
 - i. Verify the resolution meets the criteria in a(i);
 - ii. Review the summary and proof submitted, if any;
 - iii. Attempt to verify the proof submitted, if any;
 - iv. Send the resolution to the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, or Co-Speakers of the MNGA for review and placement on the MNGA Agenda;
 - v. Within 48 business hours of receipt, send the resolution to the submitter and the person alleged to have the conflict, advising that it will be on the agenda for the MNGA;
 - vi. 24 business hours after sending to the submitter and the person alleged to have the conflict, send the resolution via email to all MNGA Delegates.

3.10 Despite Article 3.9, the MNGA may, by a 2/3 vote of members present, agree to waive the notice for a conflict of interest resolution.

- i. If notice is waived, the mover must submit the conflict of interest resolution in the same form as noted in Article 3.7a, to the MNGA Clerk, or designate, by email for display at the MNGA.

3.11 If the Assembly, by a 2/3 vote, determines that a member has a conflict of interest, the member must take the steps outlined in Article 3.4, parts b to d, above.

- a) Such a motion must specify the nature of the conflict in general terms.
- b) If the member determined to be in conflict of interest does not take the steps outlined in Article 3.4 parts b to d, they may be removed by the Assembly by an additional 2/3 vote, while the matter is being deliberated.

3.12 The Assembly, by a 2/3 vote, may disqualify a person who contravenes Article 3.6 from being a member of the MNGA until proof that the conflict no longer exists is provided to the MNGA Clerk, or designate.

3.13 A Person suspended from being a member of the MNGA may appeal the suspension to the Senate, whose decision shall be final and binding.

ARTICLE FOUR - VOTING AND QUORUM

4.0 In this Act:

- 4.1. A majority (more than half) of the members of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly constitutes a quorum for the General Assembly. However quorum must include a majority of the MNBC Board of Directors;
- 4.2. Voting thresholds shall be as follows:
 - For approval of Legislation, a vote of at least 75% of votes cast at an MNGA;
 - For approval of non-Legislative matters: a majority vote of votes cast at an MNGA;
 - For approval of Housekeeping matters: a majority vote of votes cast at an MNGA.
- 4.3. 4.3 Voting procedures shall generally follow the processes set out in “Procedures for Establishing Quorum and Voting” attached as Appendix A to this Act.
 - a) The MNGA may change or amend Appendix A of this Act through a 2/3 vote at a meeting of the Governing Assembly.
- 4.4. The MNGA shall, at a Governing Assembly, draft, review and consider Legislation and amendments to the Constitution for consideration at the MNBC Annual General Meeting in the current Governance Cycle;
- 4.5. Legislation or amendments to the Constitution that have been approved by the Governing Assembly shall be presented for final approval or adoption by the Métis Citizens in attendance at an MNBC Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.
- 4.6. Legislation or amendments to the Constitution which have been approved by the Governing Assembly shall be provided to the MNBC at least forty-five (45) days prior to an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting to be included in the agenda of that Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.
- 4.7. The MNGA may, by resolution, make election rules regarding matters not specifically

set out in the *Electoral Act*. Such rules will expire 30 days after election day for the election they pertain to.

- 4.7.1 That any elected representative, who is a declared candidate in a current election, who is a member of the MNGA, may not propose such a rule.

ARTICLE FIVE – MEETINGS OF THE MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

- 5.0 Pursuant to Article 32 of the *Constitution*, the MNGA shall meet at least three (3) times per year in British Columbia.

- 5.1 Meetings shall ordinarily be scheduled for Winter, Spring, and Summer of each year, specifically the first weekends of December, March, and June. Should any of these dates fall on a designated holiday or a time change, the meeting will be held on the last weekend in November, February, or May.

- 5.2 One MNGA shall be held in person, and two MNGAs shall be held virtually every year. When determining the dates for the MNGA, the Assembly will also indicate which meeting is to be held in person.

- 5.3 Should a member wish to change part of a previously-approved resolution related to Legislation, they may suggest changes by submitting a Motion to Amend a Previously Adopted Resolution, which

- Requests the Assembly to amend the resolution;
- Specifies the title of the resolution and the date of adoption by the MNGA;
- Briefly explains why the resolution should be amended; and
- Explicitly notes the proposed amendments.

- i. The resolution to amend the previously adopted resolution is subject to the same notice deadline and voting threshold as the original resolution.
- ii. The mover or seconder of a resolution to amend a previously-adopted resolution must have voted on the prevailing side of the original resolution.

- 5.4 Resolutions related to Legislation, which have received approval at an MNGA during

a Governance Cycle, and which require adoption at the AGM, will be added to the agenda for the AGM in the same Governance Cycle.

- 5.5 Resolutions scheduled for consideration at an MNGA meeting and which are not considered due to time constraints or other extenuating circumstances will automatically be added to the next MNGA in the same Governance Cycle.
- i) If a resolution proposed at a Summer MNGA is not considered, the submitter may resubmit the resolution for consideration during any MNGA of the next Governance Cycle.
- 5.6 The MNGA shall adopt Standing Rules that will govern the proceedings of the Governing Assembly, which shall be appended to this act as Appendix B.
- a) The MNGA may change or amend its Standing Rules through a 2/3 vote at a meeting of the Governing Assembly.

ARTICLE SIX - SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER, OR CO-SPEAKERS OF THE MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

- 6.0 The Speaker and Deputy Speaker, or two Co-Speakers shall:
- 6.1 Be elected by the MNGA at a Governing Assembly;
- 6.2 May be made from within or outside the MNGA, but must be a registered MNBC Citizen pursuant to the *Citizenship Act*;
- 6.3 Be for a term of two (2) years subject to re-appointment;
- 6.4 Be responsible for the procedures, rules, debates and decorum of the Governing Assembly;
- 6.5 Receive the list of members and seating arrangements of the Governing Assembly from the Clerk as established by the Roll Call;
- 6.6 Approve all participation in debates and voting;

- 6.7 Secure a written record of the Governing Assembly and certify the minutes;
- 6.8 Require Gabriel Dumont Scouts to expel for the remainder of the day any MNGA member or any observer from the Governing Assembly for failing to follow the ruling of the Speaker;
- 6.9 Ensure that only MNGA members are seated in the designated Assembly area with all other individuals or observers seated outside of the designated Assembly area;

ARTICLE SEVEN - CLERK

- 7.0 The Clerk of the MNGA shall:
 - 7.1 Be a designate of the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia;
 - 7.2 Be responsible for compiling the necessary documentation for the Orders of the Day;
 - 7.3 Be responsible for the presentation of the agenda and notice, the minutes of the previous MNGA for adoption, and all reports to be presented to the MNGA.
 - 7.4 Obtain and retain a certified copy of the minutes from the Speaker;
 - 7.5 Provide the draft minutes of the previous MNGA for adoption by the members at least 14 (fourteen) days prior to the date set for a Governing Assembly;
 - 7.6 Secure, by contract, an independent person or agency to duly record the minutes and procedures of the MNGA;
 - 7.7 Ensure that the necessary staff are in place for a Governing Assembly;
 - 7.8 Also hold the seat as Clerk at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the MNBC; and
 - 7.9 Be authorized to appoint or designate a Deputy Clerk to assist in carrying out their duties.

ARTICLE EIGHT - SENATE

8.0 The Senate shall, in relation to the MNGA:

8.1 Maintain a Ceremonial Role in the MNGA and Governing Assemblies by:

- a) Being responsible for Opening and Closing Prayers;
- b) Swearing-In any new members.

ARTICLE NINE- GABRIEL DUMONT SCOUTS

9.0 In this Act:

9.1 Gabriel Dumont Scouts will be appointed by the MNBC to maintain order and ensure proper procedure during a Governing Assembly.

ARTICLE TEN – REPORTING

10.0 Notwithstanding any sittings or meetings of the MNGA to conduct business that is not the subject of a Governing Assembly, the following written reports shall be tabled by the Clerk for the Spring MNGA and shall be included in the Orders of the Day:

10.1 Executive Reports;

- 10.1.1 President
- 10.1.2 Vice-President
- 10.1.3 Secretary
- 10.1.4 Treasurer
- 10.1.5 Regional Director Reports;
- 10.1.6 Métis Women of British Columbia Report;
- 10.1.7 Ministerial Reports, including, where applicable, program reports and audits;
- 10.1.8 Senate Report;
- 10.1.9 Métis Youth of British Columbia Report;
- 10.1.10 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council Report,
- 10.1.11 Any other reports required by the Constitution or Legislation.

10.2 Expenditure Report

10.2.1 An interim Expenditure Report for the period between April 1st and December 31st of the current fiscal year shall be given, which shall contain all spending by MNBC elected members and the Executive Director/CEO including but not limited to: remuneration, travel costs, accommodation costs, per diems, honoraria, legal and professional fees, consultant and contractor fees and reimbursed expenses. Each year the Expenditure Report of the entire previous fiscal year's expenditures of MNBC elected members and executive staff shall be posted on the MNBC website by June 1st.

ARTICLE ELEVEN- MINUTES

11.0 The Minutes of a Governing Assembly shall:

11.1 Be received and prepared by an independent individual or person;

11.2 Be forwarded to the Clerk; and

11.3 Refer to the Minutes of the previous Governing Assembly, which shall be included in the Orders of the Day.

ARTICLE TWELVE - NOTICE OF LEGISLATION AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, AND NOTICE OF OTHER MATTERS

12.1 Legislation or amendments to Legislation:

- a) Shall be submitted only by the members of the MNGA;
- b) Shall be submitted to the Clerk no less than 30 days prior to the MNGA and shall be included in the Orders of the Day for the MNGA, which shall consider the proposed Legislation or amendments to the Legislation.
- c) Notice of the proposed Legislation or amendments to the Legislation shall be distributed to the members of the MNGA no less than 21 days prior to the MNGA being held, and
- d) If approved by the MNGA, will be presented to the MNBC at an Annual General Meeting or Special Meeting in accordance with and for the purpose as set out in Article 4.

12.2 Constitutional Amendments

- a) Shall be submitted only by the members of the MNGA;
- b) Shall be submitted to the Clerk no less than 40 days prior to the MNGA meeting and shall be included in the Orders of the Day for the MNGA, which shall consider the proposed amendments to the Constitution;
- c) Notice of the proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be distributed to the members of the MNGA no less than 21 days prior to the MNGA being held; and
- d) If approved by the MNGA, will be presented to the MNBC at an Annual General Meeting or Special Meeting in accordance and for the purpose as set out in Article 4 herein.

12.3 Other Matters

- a) Shall be submitted only by the members of the MNGA;
- b) Shall be submitted to the Clerk no less than 30 days prior to the MNGA meeting being held in the manner required and shall be included in the Orders of the Day for the MNGA, which shall consider the matters;
- c) Notice of all other matters, including minutes, reports, and decisions which relate to the powers delegated to the MNGA by MNBC Legislation shall be distributed to the members of the MNGA no less than 21 days prior to the MNGA being held and
- d) Be considered at the MNGA.

12.4 Notice of Legislation and proposed Constitutional amendments, and other matters from the MNBC Board of Directors

- a) shall be submitted to the Clerk no less than 45 days prior to the MNGA meeting being held;
- b) shall be distributed to the members of the MNGA no less than 40 days prior to the MNGA meeting being held.

12.5 Urgent Business

- a) Legislation of an urgent and pressing nature proposing to deal with a matter(s)



that has arisen after the filing deadline with the Clerk, and that such matter(s) may have implications for the Métis Nation if it is not dealt with on an urgent basis by the MNGA, may be added to the Orders of the Day by the Clerk, subject to approval by a 2/3 vote of members present at an MNGA.

- b) Resolutions relating to other matters than Legislation, of an urgent and pressing nature proposing to deal with a matter(s) that has arisen after the filing deadline with the Clerk and may have implications for the Métis Nation if not dealt with on an urgent basis by the MNGA, may be added to the Orders of the Day by the Clerk, if approved by a majority of members present at an MNGA.

12.6 Notice of the MNGA

- a) Notice of the date and location of the MNGA shall be distributed to the members of the MNGA no less than 60 days prior to the MNGA meeting being held.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN - APPLICATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS

13.0 The MNGA shall be authorized to receive and determine applications for Métis Community Governance Charter from applications in accordance with the requirement as outlined in Article 56.1 of the MNBC Constitution. The application terms of the Métis Community Governance Charter shall consider any special circumstances that may affect the status on an existing or prospective Métis Community Governance Charters.

13.1 The MNGA shall proclaim:

- a) The date of the next MNBC election, as set out in the Constitution; and
- b) Holidays and days of commemoration, such as Louis Riel Day.

13.2 The MNGA shall, at the request of the MNBC in accordance with Article 46 of the MNBC Constitution, receive nominations for the appointment of an MNBC Director (except for the office of President) to fill vacancies on the MNBC Board of Directors, MWBC Regional Representative, MYBC Regional Representative, or the Regional Representative for the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN - FINANCING

14.0 Fiscal resources for the institution and maintenance of the MNGA shall be provided by the MNBC

if available, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the MNBC Financial Policies and Procedures, shall provide financial resources to the MNGA as required for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

- 14.1 The fiscal resources allocated by the MNBC for the purposes in 13.1 shall be those fiscal resources that are within the means available to the MNBC for those purposes.
- 14.2 The Speaker shall make formal written request to the MNBC for all expenditures of the MNGA.
- 14.3 The MNBC shall actively pursue fiscal resources for the functions of the MNGA.
- 14.4 The MNBC will be responsible for the expenses and any remuneration for the MNGA in pursuance of the provisions of this Act.



Appendix A – Procedures for Establishing Quorum and Voting

1. Establishing Quorum

- a) At the start of each MNGA and after every recess the MNGA Clerk or designate shall call the roll to establish quorum.
- b) To establish quorum:
 - The MNGA Clerk or designate shall call the name of each voting member in alphabetical order by last name;
 - If present, the member shall respond in the affirmative;
 - If not present, the MNGA Clerk or designate shall ask if an alternate representative is present. If present, alternate representative shall respond by providing their name;
 - The MNGA Clerk or designate shall advise if a quorum is present.

2. Changes to Legislation or Introduction of New Legislation

- a) Votes on Legislation:
 - i. Will require a roll call vote where the MNGA Clerk or designate will call the names of the delegates in alphabetical order, or reverse alphabetical order, and the delegate will indicate their vote as follows:
 - Yes: in favour of the resolution.
 - No: opposed to the resolution.
 - Abstain: no vote.

After every delegate has had an opportunity to vote, the MNGA Clerk or designate will announce the outcome of the vote, and the number votes in favour, the number opposed, and the total number of votes cast excluding abstentions.

- b) Votes on housekeeping matters to correct Legislation:
 - i. Require a majority vote at one MNGA to be added to the agenda for the AGM in the same governance cycle.
 - ii. May be adopted by unanimous consent. If a member objects to unanimous consent, a roll call vote as outlined in Section 2a above will be taken.

3. Votes on Resolutions Relating to Other Matters

c) Votes on Resolutions not related to changes to or introduction of new legislation:

- i. Require a majority vote at an MNGA to be added to the agenda for the AGM in the same governance cycle.
- ii. May be adopted by unanimous consent. If a member objects to unanimous consent, a vote by show of hands will be taken.
- iii. To conduct a vote by show of hands, the MNGA Clerk or designate will:
 - ask for votes in favour and count the number of hands raised.
 - ask for votes opposed, and count the number of hands raised.
 - ask for any abstentions, and count the number of hands raised.

After every delegate has had an opportunity to vote, the MNGA Clerk or designate will announce the outcome of the vote, and the number of votes in favour, the number of votes opposed, and the total number of votes cast excluding abstentions.

Appendix B – MNGA Standing Rules

The rules of order below are intended to facilitate progress, include MNGA delegates in debate and decision making, and ensure fairness, equality, and common sense:

1. The meeting will be run in accordance with the relevant provisions of the MNBC Constitution and MNGA Act.
2. A delegate who wishes to speak at the MNGA will request to do so, wait to be recognized by the Speaker, and open by stating their name and Community.
3. On each issue or motion, a delegate is entitled to speak up to two (2) times, for no longer than three minutes each time. Speaking a third time or longer than three minutes will require permission from the assembly.
4. If an individual has questions, they may ask one follow-up question within the same three-minute time slot.
5. To speak a second time on the same motion or agenda item, a delegate must wait until those who wish to speak on it for the first time have done so.
6. Debate must be related to the pending motion or agenda item. The Speaker may alternate between proponents and opponents to a pending motion, if needed.
7. Previous Question is not in order prior to 30 minutes of discussion on a motion or agenda item, unless approved by unanimous consent.
8. A motion to Amend a motion or agenda item is not in order prior to five delegates speaking to the main motion, unless approved by unanimous consent.
9. Delegates must observe decorum, avoid personal attacks and disorderly or discourteous behaviors, and are expected to help maintain a safe and respectful meeting environment.

MÉTIS NATION CITIZENSHIP ACT

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



RATIFIED – SEPTEMBER 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ARTICLE ONE - TITLE

1.0 This Act may be cited as “The Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act”

ARTICLE TWO - INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 In this Act:
- 2.2 **“Act”** means the *Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act*.
- 2.3 **“Adoption”** Act of transferring parental rights and duties to someone other than the adopted person’s biological parents by means of a statutory adoption or a customary Métis adoption.
- 2.4 **“Adopted Métis Citizen”** A Métis Citizen that has acquired their Métis Citizenship as per Article 12 of the MNBC Citizenship Act.
- 2.5 **“Appeal”** or **“Appeals”** means a written document submitted by: an Applicant who has been rejected entry in the Métis Nation British Columbia Central Registry, a Métis Nation British Columbia Citizen who is objecting to the registration of any Applicant to the Métis Nation British Columbia Central Registry, or a person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six of this Act;
- 2.6 **“Applicant”** means an individual who applies for a Provincial Citizenship Card by filing the necessary documentation with the Citizenship Authority.
- 2.7 **“Application”** means the Provincial Citizenship Standardized Application Form.
- 2.8 A **“Chartered Community”** is a Métis Community that has entered into a Community Governance Charter agreement with the MNBC.
- 2.9 **“Child”** means a child of a Métis citizen.
- 2.10 **“Citizenship Appeal Committee”** means the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Appeal Committee as established and maintained by the Senate.

- 2.11 **“Citizenship Authority”** (the “Authority”) means the office in the Ministry of Citizenship which processes, assesses, ensures Chartered Community acceptance is approved within the required timeframe, and issues citizenship cards. The Authority consists of:
- The Executive Director of Citizenship
 - The Director of Citizenship
 - The Citizenship Assessment Manager
- 2.12 **“Community Governance Charter”** means the written document that shall set out the terms of the relationship between a Chartered Community and the MNBC.
- 2.13 **“Constitution”** means the Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia as amended from time to time.
- 2.14 **“Customary Adoption”** An adoption that is consistent with the historical and customary practices of the Métis Nation which has occurred at an early age by an immediate or extended family member.
- 2.15 **“Extended Family Member”** Is a grandparent, uncle, aunt, cousin, nephew and/or niece that is a Métis Citizen or is eligible for Métis citizenship as per the MNBC Citizenship Act.
- 2.16 **“Genealogical Evidence”** means evidence which indicates proof that an Applicant’s parent is, or parents are, of Métis Ancestry and that the Applicant is Métis and which can be verified by an objective and valid process.
- 2.17 **“Historical and Customary Practices”** The traditional undertaking of privately arranged adoption between a Métis Citizen’s family and another aboriginal family.
- 2.18 **“Immediate Family Member”** Is a parent (mother/father), child (son/daughter) or sibling (sister/brother) that is a Métis Citizen or is eligible for Métis citizenship as per the MNBC Citizenship Act.
- 2.19 **“Legislation”** means legislative documents or acts pursuant to which the administrative affairs and constitutional requirements of the MNBC shall be carried out.
- 2.20 **“Registration”** means citizenship in the MNBC.

- 2.21 **“Métis” or “Citizen”** means a Métis Citizen as defined by the Constitution.
- 2.22 **“Métis Nation Governing Assembly”** (MNGA) means the legislative authority of the Métis Nation British Columbia as set out in the Constitution.
- 2.23 **“Métis Nation British Columbia”** (MNBC) means the organization previously known as the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia which represents and is comprised of the Métis Citizens of British Columbia and which is governed by the provisions of the Constitution which is also the Constitution of the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia.
- 2.24 **“Métis Nation British Columbia”** (MNBC) means the governing body with the secretariat known as the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia, which represents and is comprised of the Métis citizens of British Columbia and which is governed by the provision of the Constitution.
- 2.25 **“Provincial Citizenship Card”** means the identification card that shall be issued by the Citizenship Authority to all Métis Citizens who have had their Genealogy and supporting documentation validated and verified by the Office of the Citizenship Authority.
- 2.26 **“Registration”** means Citizenship in the MNBC.
- 2.27 **“Registry”** means the data and systems used by the Ministry of Citizenship to gather and store information about Métis Citizens.
- 2.28 **“Statutory Adoption”** An adoption that is granted under the authority of provincial and/or territorial government legislation.
- 2.29 **“Supporting Documentation”** is defined as records used to support an application for Citizenship, including Vital events records, historical records, church records, archival records, and census records.
- 2.30 **“Registered”** means registered as a Métis Citizen under this Act.
- 2.31 **“Under Review”** means a previously registered Citizen whose citizenship is currently being reviewed by the Citizenship Authority following an audit or review of the Central Registry

ARTICLE THREE – MÉTIS NATION ACCEPTANCE

- 3.1 The MNBC shall accept an application for citizenship upon Applicant providing to the Citizenship Authority a written application together with sufficient Genealogical evidence which, if accepted by the Citizenship Authority, is proof that the Applicant is of Métis ancestry, and that the Applicant complies with the following conditions:
- 3.1.1 The Applicant normally resides within the Chartered Community area and the jurisdiction of the MNBC; and
- 3.1.2 The Applicant expressly holds themselves out to be Métis in the Chartered Community and/or within the jurisdiction of the MNBC;
- 3.1.3 The Applicant recognizes they may not be enrolled on any other Aboriginal registry. This includes being registered as a member, citizen, or beneficiary under the Indian Act or with any other organization or group that claims to represent Métis or other Aboriginal peoples for the purposes of rights, interests, and self government;
- 3.1.4 The Applicant understands Métis Nation British Columbia is the representative body for Métis Citizens in BC provincially, nationally, and internationally;
- 3.1.5 The Applicant agrees that by signing the Oath of Citizenship on the MNBC Citizenship Application and/or the MNBC Citizenship Renewal or Replacement Application, they recognize MNBC as their sole governmental representative for their Indigenous rights under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution, independent of any other declaration or statement the Applicant may have made previously.
- 3.2 Once the Citizenship Authority is satisfied that the Applicant has met the conditions in Articles 3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.4, and 3.1.5, the Citizenship Authority may issue the Applicant notification of Chartered Community acceptance not exceeding 90 days, and then issue a Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Card.
- 3.3 The Citizenship Authority shall provide a list of new Citizens to their respective Communities on a monthly basis, unless operational circumstances prevent that from happening, and in such a case the list of new Citizens must be provided by the end of the following month

ARTICLE FOUR - REGISTRATION PROCESS

- 4.1 An individual is entitled to make application for registration as a Métis Citizen by making application to the MNBC or to a Chartered Community;
- 4.2 Upon approval of registration, the Citizenship Authority shall issue a Provincial Citizenship Card recognizing the Applicant as a Métis Citizen.
- 4.3 The parent or guardian of a child under nineteen (19) years of age may apply for registration on behalf of the child;
- 4.4 The guardian of an individual who is under a mental or legal disability may apply for registration on behalf of that individual;
- 4.5 No individual is obliged to apply for registration;
- 4.6 In the case of an application for registration, the Applicant must provide the Citizenship Authority with genealogy and the supporting documentation necessary to validate and verify that the Applicant is Métis;
- 4.7 The Citizenship Authority shall review applications for registration and shall register an Applicant as a Métis only if:
 - a) The Applicant is entitled to be registered as a Métis pursuant to the provisions of this Act;
 - b) Upon completion of the Métis Nation acceptance process; and
 - c) The application is properly made.
- 4.8 The Citizenship Authority shall establish and implement a process to seek out and encourage the application for registration of all qualified individuals who are entitled to be registered as Métis Citizens.

ARTICLE FIVE - VOLUNTARY REMOVAL FROM REGISTRY

- 5.1 A Métis Citizen may, at any time, voluntarily remove themselves from the Registry;
- 5.2 The Citizenship Authority shall remove a Métis Citizen who, by written request, declares that they no longer wish to be registered as a Métis Citizen;

- 5.3 A Métis Citizen who has removed themselves from the Registry may re-apply for Registration upon following the procedure for Registration as a Métis Citizen as set out in this Act.

ARTICLE SIX – REMOVAL FROM REGISTRY DUE TO INELIGIBILITY

- 6.1 If, due to information found during an audit, review, renewal, or replacement, a person on the Central Registry is found to be ineligible for Métis citizenship:
- a) The Citizenship Authority will notify the person, in writing, that their Métis citizenship is under review, and provide the reason(s) for ineligibility, and, if relevant, the Supporting Documentation required to restore citizenship status.
 - b) Supporting Documentation requested to restore citizenship status must be provided within sixty (60) days of the review notice being sent by the Citizenship Authority. This time frame can be extended, by request of the Citizen, by a further ninety (90) days.
 - i. Extension requests are granted solely at the discretion of the Citizenship Authority.
- 6.2 If the Citizenship Authority has received Supporting Documentation to their satisfaction that the person is eligible for Métis Citizenship, the review status of their citizenship will be immediately removed.
- 6.3 If the Citizenship Authority has not received any further Supporting Documentation, or, the Supporting Documentation is insufficient to objectively verify and meet the criteria for Métis citizenship, the citizenship of the person will be revoked, and the person will be notified of this revocation in writing.
- 6.4 A person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six may appeal the Citizenship Authority's decision to the Senate, within sixty (60) days of the date removal notice is sent by the Citizenship Authority. The Senate's decision on this Appeal will be final and binding.
- 6.5 A person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six may re-apply for Registration upon following the procedure for Registration as a Métis Citizen as set out in this Act.
- 6.6 A person who is placed under review by the Citizenship Authority is not eligible to apply for any further supports, programs, or funding through MNBC until their citizenship has been



reaffirmed. A person currently receiving supports will continue to receive them for at least sixty (60) days following the notice sent by the Citizenship Authority. This time frame can be extended, by request of the person under review, by a further sixty (60) days.

- (i) Extension requests are granted at the discretion of the responsible program director. A negative decision can be appealed within thirty (30) days to the MNBC Board, who can overturn the decision by a majority vote.

ARTICLE SEVEN – CENTRAL REGISTRY

- 7.1 The Ministry of Citizenship shall maintain a uniform system for the Registration of Métis Citizens;
- 7.2 The Ministry of Citizenship shall collect and maintain the information necessary to determine registration; the information to be collected is listed on the MNBC Citizenship Application Package and updated from time to time.
- 7.3 The Ministry of Citizenship may collect and register additional demographic information about Métis Citizens as, in the Ministry of Citizenship's sole discretion, is deemed necessary and/or expedient;
- 7.4 All information concerning Applicants or Métis Citizens located at the Central Registry is confidential and the Ministry of Citizenship shall adhere to or cause to be adhered to, all federal and provincial Privacy Laws;
- 7.5 The Ministry of Citizenship shall cause the Registry to be kept safely by administrative, physical, and technological safeguards that are reasonable and consistent with this Act;
- 7.6 The Ministry of Citizenship will, with the consent of the MNBC Board of Directors obtain permission from Citizens to release certain personal information of Citizens to the Provincial or Federal Governments for health and social determinants of health research purposes only, provided that each Citizen affected by that permission has been provided with an information document fully describing the information proposed by the Ministry of Citizenship to be released, including a release statement that provides that Citizen with an opportunity to decline or refuse to permit the release of the personal information proposed to be released.
 - i) In the event a Citizen, having been provided with a reasonable opportunity to respond to the Ministry of Citizenship at the address provided, declines to give

their consent for the information to be released, then that information will not be released.

- 7.7 Applicants may apply for Citizenship by written Application through a Chartered Community, a regional registry clerk, or directly to the Métis Nation British Columbia registry;
- 7.8 Application shall be submitted by the Chartered Community of the MNBC and/or the Regional Registry Clerk to the Ministry of Citizenship for consideration and entry into the Central Registry;
- 7.9 An Applicant whose application is not approved by the Ministry of Citizenship shall be notified, in writing of the decision;
- 7.10 An Applicant, having applied for Citizenship directly to the MNBC and whose Application the Citizenship Authority approves, shall be issued a Provincial Citizenship Card by the Central Registry and forwarded directly to the Applicant;
- 7.11 An Applicant, who has applied for MNBC Citizenship, where the application has been forwarded by a Chartered Community or Regional Registry Clerk, and whose application the Provincial Citizenship Authority approves, shall be issued a Provincial Citizenship Card by the Central Registry and forwarded directly to the Applicant;
- 7.12 Each Provincial Citizenship Card shall bear a personal and individual registration number and clearly identify which MNBC Region the Citizens resides;
- 7.13 Provincial Citizenship Cards issued pursuant this Act shall constitute the only legitimate and valid proof of Métis Citizenship to the exclusion of all other cards and/or documents of any nature;
- 7.14 Except as may be otherwise provided by this Act, the MNBC shall be solely responsible for the development and distribution of the Provincial Citizenship Application Forms and the Provincial Citizenship Card.

ARTICLE EIGHT - REGISTRY OFFICE

- 8.0 The MNBC shall establish a Citizenship Authority which shall maintain and provide Provincial Citizenship Application Forms and Provincial Citizenship Cards to Applicants or



Chartered Communities when consent to Release of Personal information forms have been signed and submitted by the Applicant.

ARTICLE NINE - THE MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP

- 9.1 The Ministry of Citizenship shall be required to follow all policies and procedures developed by the MNBC and shall:
- 9.2 Receive and review applications for citizenship submitted by an Applicant on the Provincial Standardized Citizenship Application Forms and shall render a decision whether a person is entitled to be registered pursuant to this Act;
- 9.3 Be and is authorized to request and obtain Genealogical evidence and/or any other documentation and information which may be relevant to an application and the proper discharge of the Ministry of Citizenship's duties;
- 9.4 Provide a report in writing to MNGA and the MNBC upon their reasonable request;
- 9.5 Maintain the Central Registry in a suitable and proper manner;
- 9.6 Provide a written decision to the Applicant and/or the Chartered Community, as may be appropriate under the circumstances concerning an application;
- 9.7 Include with any written decision, written instruction on the procedure for commencing an appeal from a decision of the Ministry of Citizenship;
- 9.8 Be authorized to render decisions on the voluntary removal of Métis Citizens from the Central Registry;
- 9.9 Applicants whose applications are not approved for Citizenship by the Central Registry may appeal such decision to the Senate;
- 9.10 Ensure that all documentation and information in the possession of the Ministry of Citizenship with respect to the application under appeal is provided, together with the Ministry of Citizenship's report, to the Senate prior to the date upon which the appeal is to be heard;
- 9.11 Comply with any reasonable request of the Senate or of the Citizens' Appeal Committee or

other appropriate Senate Tribunal for information or material concerning the Application or an appeal;

9.12 Supervise the staff and operation of the Registry Office;

9.13 Respond to any reasonable request for information from an Applicant, the appropriate Chartered Community or the MNBC concerning an application.

ARTICLE TEN - CITIZENSHIP APPEAL

10.0 An Applicant, Chartered Community or the MNBC may appeal a decision of the Citizenship Authority concerning the application of an Applicant for Citizenship to the Senate pursuant to the provisions of this Act or the Senate Act.

ARTICLE ELEVEN - FINANCES

11.0 The expenses and costs associated with the maintenance of the Ministry of Citizenship including the remuneration for the office of the Citizenship Authority and the Registry office staff shall be established by the MNBC based on the availability of fiscal resources.

ARTICLE TWELVE - ADOPTION

12.1 The MNBC shall accept an application for citizenship as a Métis Citizen upon applicant providing to the Citizenship Authority objectively verifiable proof of an adoption which, if accepted by the Citizenship Authority, proves that the Applicant has been adopted by a Métis Citizen or is eligible for citizenship as per the MNBC Citizenship Act.

12.2 The adopted Métis Citizen's citizenship is limited by a life estate termination, unless;

12.3 The adopted Métis Citizen marries a Métis Citizen, thereby which the offspring can attain their citizenship through the Métis genealogy of the other parent.

12.4 An adult adoption (18 years or older) is exempt from receiving Métis Citizenship as per Article 12.0.



MÉTIS NATION ELECTORAL ACT

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



RATIFIED – SEPTEMBER 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ARTICLE ONE – NAME

- 1.0 This *Electoral Act* of the Métis Nation British Columbia shall be cited as the “*MNBC Electoral Act*” and hereinafter be referred to as the “*Electoral Act*”.

ARTICLE TWO – PURPOSE, SEAL AND NAME

- 2.0 The purpose of the *Electoral Act* is to establish fair, open and democratic procedures and rules for the Elections of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC).

ARTICLE THREE – DEFINITIONS

- 3.0 In this document:
- 3.1 “**Advance Poll**” means a vote held prior to the designated Election Day so as to allow those voters who may be unable to attend a Polling Station the ability to vote either by voting at a Polling Station or by Mail-in Ballot;
 - 3.2 “**Ballot**” or “**ballot**” means a paper or document representing a vote by an Elector and means vote where the context so dictates;
 - 3.3 “**Board Member**” means a person that currently holds a position on the MNBC Board of Directors.
 - 3.4 “**Board of Directors**” means the governing body of the MNBC made up of the President, Vice-President, the Regional Directors, the Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, the Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, and the Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council;
 - 3.5 “**By-Election**” means an Election to replace or fill a vacancy in the MNBC Board of Directors, the Métis Women of British Columbia, the Métis Youth of British Columbia, and/or the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council when such vacancy exists as the result of a lack of nominations for candidacy at an Election or is created by the removal, resignation or disqualification of the person previously holding the office as set out in Article 23 of the Constitution;



- 3.6 **“Campaign Period”** means that period of time from the date that the MNBC Election is called and the date at which the Chief Electoral Officer declares the successful Candidates elected;
- 3.7 **“Candidate”** means a person who is nominated and qualified to compete for an office in the Métis Nation British Columbia Election for President, Vice-President, Regional Director, Chairperson and Regional Youth Representative of Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson and Regional Representatives of the Métis Women of British Columbia, and Chairperson and Regional Representatives of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council;
- 3.8 **“Chief Electoral Officer”** means a contractor appointed in writing after final approval of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly. The Métis Nation British Columbia Board of Directors is charged with developing a call for proposals and short listing potential contractors to operate Elections for the Métis Nation British Columbia. This short list will be presented to the MNGA for final approval of the successful Chief Electoral Officer;
- 3.9 **“Conflict of Interest”** means the circumstances in which there is a real, potential or apparent conflict between the private interests of a person and the interests of the Métis Nation. This also includes circumstances in which a person represents or is a director/officer of an organization, association or party whose interests are in conflict with the interests of the MNBC;
- 3.10 **“Constitution”** means the Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia as adopted by the Métis citizens at the Annual General Meeting September 2003 and revised from time to time thereafter;
- 3.11 **“Election(s)”** means an Election or By-Election called by the Métis Nation British Columbia for the Election of a President, Vice President, Regional Directors, Chairperson and Regional Youth Representative of Métis Youth of British Columbia, and Chairperson, Regional Representatives of the Métis Women of British Columbia, and the Chairperson and Regional Representatives of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council, as set out in the Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution.
- 3.12 **“Election Day”** means the official day when the votes cast by Electors at an Election are counted;

- 3.13 **“Election Voting Period”** means, in the case of a Polling Station vote, that period of time as designated by the Chief Electoral Officer and in the case of a Mail-in Ballot or online voting Election, that period of time as set by the Chief Electoral Officer pursuant to Sub-Article 15.2 of this *Electoral Act*.
- 3.14 **“Election Officer”** means the Chief Electoral Officer, Returning Officers and Poll Clerks appointed for a particular Election or by-Election;
- 3.15 **“Elector”** means a Métis citizen who, pursuant to the Métis Nation British Columbia’s Constitution, is no less than 18 years of age as of the date of the Election, has been registered as a Métis citizen pursuant to the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act, and has resided in British Columbia for a minimum of twelve (12) months for a provincial office or six (6) months for voting in regional offices. Any female Métis citizen who is eighteen (18) years of age or older may vote or seek elected office within the Métis Women of British Columbia. Any Métis citizen who is between fifteen (15) years of age and thirty (30) years of age may vote or seek elected office within the Métis Youth of British Columbia. Any self-identifying 2SLGBTQQIA+ Métis Citizen who is eighteen (18) years or older may vote or seek elected office within the Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council of British Columbia.
- 3.16 **“Interim Appointee”** means a person who is appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors, or a MWBC Regional Representative, MYBC Regional Representative, or 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governing Council Representative, on an interim basis pursuant to the provisions of Article 46 of the Constitution.
- 3.17 **“Leave of Absence”** means an unpaid leave of absence for an MNBC employee, however, where applicable, an employee may use any accrued annual vacation.
- 3.18 **“List of Electors”** means a list made pursuant to this *Electoral Act* and prepared by the MNBC Central Registry of individuals entitled to vote in a Métis Nation British Columbia Election;
- 3.19 **“Mail-in ballot”** means a vote that is cast by an Elector and delivered by mail or courier to the location or individual designated by the Chief Electoral Officer in accordance with Sub- Article 5.6 herein;



- 3.20 **“Métis Citizen”** is a Métis person as defined in the Constitution and listed in the central registry;
- 3.21 **“Métis Community”** shall mean the Métis Nation British Columbia communities as set out in the Constitution;
- 3.22 **“Métis Nation British Columbia Senate”** means the judicial arm of the of the Métis Nation British Columbia and in accordance with Senate Act;
- 3.23 **“Mobile Polling Station”** means an advance poll consisting of a team of election officials who visit Communities, and have two secure ballot boxes: one to collect Mailin Ballots, and one to collect ballots issued by the team to electors who have not previously received a Mail-in Ballot.
- 3.24 **“Online Voting”** means a vote that is cast by an Elector using a web-based voting system;
- 3.25 **“Ordinarily Resident”** means a Métis citizen who actually lives and has lived continuously in British Columbia for at least twelve (12) full months prior to the date of the Election. In making such determination, temporary absences from British Columbia for reasons such as travel, education, medical treatment, military service or incarceration shall be considered periods of residence provided the person was ordinarily resident prior to such temporary absences. A person can have only one place of Ordinarily Residence;
- 3.26 **“Poll Book”** means a list of names of persons who have received ballots at an Election pursuant to the *Electoral Act*;
- 3.27 **“Poll Clerk”** means a person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer to assist a Returning Officer at the polls pursuant to this *Electoral Act*;
- 3.28 **“Polling Station”** means a place established by the Election Officers where Electors cast their vote or send their ballots by Mail-In Ballots in accordance with Sub-Article 5.6 herein and which is set up pursuant to the *MNBC Electoral Act*;
- 3.29 **“Region or Electoral Region”** means one of the seven (7) regions of the Métis Nation British Columbia;

- 3.30 “**Regional Director**” means a person who holds the position of Regional Director of one of the seven (7) Métis Nation British Columbia regions after being elected pursuant to the *Electoral Act* or after a By-Election pursuant to Section 47 of the *Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution*;
- 3.31 “**Returning Officer**” means a person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer pursuant to the *Electoral Act*; and
- 3.32 “**Scrutineer**” means a person appointed in writing who is authorized to represent a Candidate’s interests at a Polling Station pursuant to the *Electoral Act*.

ARTICLE FOUR – DATE OF ELECTION

- 4.0 The date of the Election shall be established by the MNGA in conjunction with the terms outlined in the *Constitution*.

ARTICLE FIVE – CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

- 5.0 The Chief Electoral Officer shall be appointed by the MNGA to hold office for each Election. This individual shall manage and conduct an Election. The Chief Electoral Officer shall also have the responsibility of conducting any necessary By-Elections while their appointment remains in effect. The Chief Electoral Officer shall:
- 5.1 Provide guidance and supervision respecting the conduct of the Election:
- a) Create all electoral notifications, forms, ballots and documents as may be required;
 - b) Decide the eligibility of all Candidates seeking office in an Election;
 - c) Prepare the List of Electors;
 - d) Appoint Returning Officers and Poll Clerks;
 - e) Ensure that all Election Officers are in compliance with this *Electoral Act* and use the guiding principles of fairness and impartiality when conducting an Election;
 - f) Issue to Election Officers any information and guidance they consider necessary for the administration of the *Electoral Act*;
 - g) Reconcile all ballots and prepare an official Election report for the Métis Communities and Métis Nation British Columbia Board of Directors; and
 - h) Perform all duties assigned pursuant to this *Electoral Act*.



5.2 In addition, the Chief Electoral Officer shall:

- a) Implement public education and information activities to make the electoral process better known to the public, particularly to those persons most likely to experience difficulties in exercising their democratic rights; activities may include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Working with MNBC staff to develop and distribute a voters guide for electors, that explains in plain language where, when, and how to vote;
 - ii. Newspaper advertisements in local papers where there is a Chartered Community (if available and subject to funding);
 - iii. Social media, including the purchase of ads;
 - iv. Direct mail and email notices to electors;
 - v. Arranging for virtual townhall meetings, either individually in each region, or in combination with other regions, for provincial and regional Candidates to respond to questions and comments from electors;
 - vi. Working with MNBC committees and Chartered Communities to provide outreach opportunities in their communities, especially youth outreach;
 - vii. Any other opportunities that may be requested by a Chartered Community or Region, or considered by the Chief Electoral Officer to be appropriate for all or for a specific region or Community.
- b) The Chief Electoral Officer shall, as much as reasonably possible in as many outreach activities as possible, include information regarding the positions available for election, a description of responsibilities, and time commitments
- c) Remove from office and replace Election Officers upon being satisfied that the officers:
 - i. Refuse, neglect or have an inability to act;
 - ii. Have failed to perform satisfactorily the duties of their office; or
 - iii. Is engaging in partisan political activities.

5.3 The Chief Electoral Officer shall consult with the Solicitor for the MNBC, when and if necessary with respect to issues that may arise from time to time concerning the Election process.

5.4 If during the course of an Election, it transpires that insufficient time has been allowed, or insufficient Election Officers or Polling Stations have been provided, for the execution of any of the purposes of the *Electoral Act*, by reason of the operation of any provision of this

Electoral Act, the Chief Electoral Officer, notwithstanding anything in the *Electoral Act* may:

- a) Increase the number of Election Officers (subject to financial resources);
- b) Increase the number of Polling Stations (subject to financial resources);

5.5 However, the Chief Electoral Officer may not extend the hour for the opening or closing of an ordinary or advance polling station, or for accepting nomination packages on nomination day or change the date of ordinary polling day.

5.6 The Chief Electoral Officer shall conduct Elections by Mail-in Ballot and by Online Voting.

- a) An MNBC Chartered Community may, via written request to the Chief Electoral Officer, request a secured ballot box to the Community, for the deposit of mail-in ballots.
 - i. The ballot box will be secured through the requirements provided in Article 18 of this Act, and
 - (a) The person appointed as Returning Officer pursuant to Article 14.1 of the *MNBC Electoral Act* shall be responsible for the security of the above-noted ballot box.
 - ii. The ballot box shall be placed in an accessible location pursuant to the requirements provided in Article 18 of this Act.
 - iii. The Returning Officer shall send, by mail or courier, Mail-in Ballots deposited by Electors in a secured ballot box in a Community to the location and by the date designated by the Chief Electoral Officer.
 - iv. The Chief Electoral Officer shall provide the date that the secured ballot box will be closed, and when the ballots must be sent to the Chief Electoral Officer.

ARTICLE SIX – ELECTORS

6.1 Any Métis Citizen of the MNBC who is Ordinarily Resident in British Columbia is eligible to be an Elector subject to Article 6.2 herein.

6.2 An Elector is entitled to cast one (1) vote for the each of the following offices:

- a) President;
- b) Vice President;
- c) Regional Director;
- d) Regional Youth Representative for the Métis Youth of British Columbia for the Region in which the Elector is entitled to vote being 15 years of age to 30;

- e) Chairperson for the Métis Youth of British Columbia 15 years of age to 30.
- f) Regional Women's representative for the Métis Women of British Columbia for the region in which the Elector is entitled to vote being female 18 years of age and older.
- g) Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia being female eighteen (18) years of age and older
- h) Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council for the region in which the Elector is entitled to vote being self-identified 2SLGBTQQIA+ and 18 years of age or older.
 - (i) For greater certainty, identification of Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons for the purposes of voting and seeking elected office will not be kept by Métis Naiton British Columbia, and ballots will be open to all eligible voters to respond to voluntarily if they selfidentify as 2SLGBTQQIA+.

6.3 Any person is eligible to vote if:

- a) A Métis person, pursuant to the MNBC's Constitution;
- b) No less than 18 years of age of the date of the Election;
- c) No less than 15 years of age and no more than 30 years of age for the MYBC;
- d) Any female Métis citizen who is eighteen (18) years of age or older may vote for the Métis Women of British Columbia.
- e) Any Métis Citizen who self-identifies as 2SLGBTQQIA+ and is eighteen (18) years of age or older may vote for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
- f) Registered as a Métis citizen pursuant to the MNBC Citizenship Act; and
- g) Ordinarily resident in British Columbia.

6.4 The following individuals are not eligible to vote in a Métis Nation British Columbia Election:

- a) Individuals who are not registered on the MNBC Central Registry;
- b) Individuals who are not 18 years of age on Election Day; with the exception of the MYBC;
- c) Individuals who are not 15 years of age and older than 30 on Election Day for the MYBC;
- d) Individuals who are not female 18 years of age and older on Election Day for the MWBC; and
- e) Individuals who are not 2SLGBTQQIA+ and 18 years of age and older on Election day.
- f) The Chief Electoral Officer;

- 6.5 Each Elector shall, before voting, affirm that they are a Métis Citizen of British Columbia and identify as such. In addition, electors must affirm that they are not registered under either the Indian Act or the Inuit Registry.
- 6.6 In the case of Online Voting, an elector shall have the option of voting by a Mail-in Ballot or at a Polling Station designated by the Chief Electoral Officer on Election day, if they are not able to vote online.

ARTICLE SEVEN – LIST OF ELECTORS

- 7.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall obtain from the MNBC Central Registry a final listing of registered voters no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight time on or before the 45th day. Subject only to the discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer as set out in Article 7.7 herein, no individual shall be permitted to be included or accepted on the List of Electors after 5:00 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time, on or before the 45th day.
- 7.2 Upon receipt of the final lists as stated herein, the Chief Electoral Officer shall, from the Central registry listing, prepare a List of Electors and satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of the List of Electors.
- 7.3 On or before the 39th day before the Election Day the Chief Electoral Officer shall submit to each nominated and official Candidate for a vacancy in the Office of President, Vice President, Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Métis Women of British Columbia Chairperson, and the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Chairperson, a copy of the provincial List of Electors. Also the applicable Regional List of Electors will be provided to each of the nominated and official Candidates for a vacancy in the office of Regional Director, Regional women's representative, Regional Youth Representative, and the Regional 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council. In addition, a copy of the applicable community List of Electors will be provided to each Métis community.
- 7.4 Electors shall vote at the Polling Station closest to where they are ordinarily resident or in the case of a Mail-in Ballot shall send their ballot by mail or courier to a location so designated by the Chief Electoral Officer within the time set by the Chief Electoral Officer as the Election Voting Period, or, in the case of Online Voting, within the time set by the Chief Electoral Officer as the Election Voting Period.
- 7.5 In the event an Elector, who, being on the List of Electors, attends a Polling Station



other than the Polling Station at which their name is included on the List of Electors, the Returning Officer at that Polling Station shall deal with that Elector's ballot as set out in Article 28 herein.

- 7.6 No individual shall be permitted to be included or accepted on the List of Electors after the 45-day timeline. The Chief Electoral Officer shall then, from the list of registered electors, prepare a List of Electors and satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of the List of Electors.
- a) The Chief Electoral officer shall submit a copy of the provincial List of Electors to each nominated and official Candidate for President, VicePresident, Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, and the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Chairperson. Also, the applicable Regional List of Electors will be provided to each of the nominated and official Candidates for a vacancy in the office of Regional Director, Regional Women's Representative, Regional Youth Representative, and the Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
 - b) The List of Electors referred to in Article 7.3 herein shall be provided to the Candidates no less than 39 days prior to the date of the Election;
 - c) The Chief Electoral Officer may amend the List of Electors as necessary; and
 - d) The Chief Electoral Officer shall place a copy of the List of Electors with each Métis community.
- 7.7 Upon provision of evidence to the satisfaction of the Chief Electoral Officer, of a legitimate error or omission, a Métis citizen can have their name added to, or removed from the List of Electors at any time up to fourteen (14) days prior to the Election.
- 7.8 Electors shall vote at the Polling Station closest to where they are ordinarily resident. In the event of any discrepancy, the Chief Electoral Officer shall make the determination as to which Polling Station is deemed closest. Electors may request of the Chief Electoral Officer that they be placed on the List of Electors of another polling station and such determinations shall be at the sole discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer.
- 7.9 No Métis citizens shall:
- a) Willfully apply to be included in the List of Electors in a name that is not their own; and
 - b) Willfully apply to be included in the List of Electors for a region that they are not qualified or entitled to vote as an Elector.

ARTICLE EIGHT – NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

- 8.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall, 60 days before the date of the Election, through a mail-out to all Electors and a posting on the MNBC website, provide notice of the Election and the applicable rules surrounding the Election and the preparation of the List of Electors:
- a) The place and hours fixed for the nomination of Candidates and the date fixed for closing nominations;
 - b) The positions available for election, including a description of responsibilities and time commitment.
 - c) The nomination papers required to be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer; and
 - d) The address, email and phone number of the Chief Electoral Officer.
- 8.2 Nominations of all Candidates for the Offices of President, Vice-President, Regional Directors, Chairperson or Regional Youth Representative of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson and Regional Women's Representative of the Métis Women of British Columbia, and Chairperson and Regional Representative of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall be received in writing or electronically no less than 40 days prior to the date of the Election by the Chief Electoral Officer at a location to be specified in the notice by the Chief Electoral Office.
- 8.3 Any Métis Citizen is eligible to be nominated as a Candidate if, on the day their nomination papers are filed:
- a) They are an ordinarily resident in British Columbia
 - b) Is 18 years of age or older; with the exception of the MYBC;
 - c) Any Métis citizen who is between fifteen (15) years of age and thirty (30) years of age may seek elected office within the Métis Youth of British Columbia, except for the office of Chairperson of the Metis Youth of British Columbia;
 - d) Any Metis Citizen who is between eighteen (18) and thirty (30) years of age may seek the elected office of Chairperson of the Metis Youth of British Columbia.
 - e) Any female Métis citizen who is eighteen (18) years of age or older may seek elected office within the Métis Women of British Columbia.
 - f) Any self-identified 2SLGBTQQIA+ Métis Citizen who is eighteen (18) years of age or older may seek elected office on the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
 - g) If they are seeking to be nominated as a Candidate for President, VicePresident, Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, or Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial



Governance Council, they have been a resident of the Métis Community in British Columbia for not less than one year;

- h) If they are seeking to be nominated as a Candidate for a Regional Director, or Regional Youth Representative of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, or, Regional Women's Representative of the Métis Women of British Columbia has been a resident of the Métis Community of the Region they are seeking nomination for not less than 6 months;
- i) If, they are a salaried employee of MNBC:
 - i. Have provided a written notice of intention to stand as a candidate to the CEO of MNBC no later than fifteen (15) days before the close of nominations;
 - ii. At the close of nomination, has provided written notice of a leave of absence to the CEO of MNBC:
 - i. MNBC will grant the leave of absence for the salaried position;
 - ii. The Citizen, if they receive employment benefits as part of their employment with MNBC, is entitled to all their employee benefits while they are a candidate, save for pay.
 - iii. If the Citizen is elected, they must resign their position with MNBC within thirty (30) days of the date of the election, and before being sworn into office.
- j) If, they are currently serving as an independent contractor with MNBC, they have submitted notice of termination of all current contracts at the close of nominations.
- k) At the close of nomination has provided a letter of resignation to the CEO for any salaried (contractor or employment) position held within the MNBC;
- l) In accordance with Article 23.7 of the MNBC Constitution, has provided a criminal record check satisfactory to the Chief Electoral Officer in accordance with Articles 45 and 23.7 of the MNBC Constitution; and
- m) Is registered with the Métis Nation British Columbia Central registry pursuant to the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act.

8.4 All nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, and Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall include:

- a) Written acceptance of the nomination by the Candidate;

- b) A minimum of twenty (20) original signatures of Electors who reside in the Province of British Columbia, who are not signatories of another Candidate's nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate seeks to be nominated for the position of President and Vice President;
- c) A minimum of ten (10) original signatures of electors who reside in the Province of British Columbia, who are not signatories of another Candidate's nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate seeks to be nominated for the chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia;
- d) A minimum of ten (10) original signatures of female electors who reside in the Province of British Columbia, who are not signatories of another Candidate's nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate seeks to be nominated for the chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia;
- e) A minimum of ten (10) original signatures of 2SLGBTQQIA+ electors who reside in the Province of British Columbia, who are not signatories of another Candidate's nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate seeks to be nominated for the chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.

8.5 All nominations for Regional Directors, Regional Youth Representative of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Regional Women's Representative of the Métis Women of British Columbia and Regional representative of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall include:

- a) Written acceptance of the nomination by the Candidate;
- b) A minimum of ten (10) signatures of Electors who reside in the region for which the Candidate seeks to be nominated, who are not signatories of another Candidate's Nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate for Regional Director seeks to be nominated;
- c) A minimum of three (3) signatures of electors who reside in the region for which the Candidate seeks to be nominated, who are not signatories of another Candidates nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate for the Regional Youth Representative of the Métis Youth of British Columbia seeks to be nominated.
- d) A minimum of five (5) signatures of female electors who reside in the region



for which the Candidate seeks to be nominated, who are not signatories of another Candidates nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate for the Regional Women's Representative of the Métis Women of British Columbia.

- e) A minimum of three (3) signatures of electors who reside in the region for which the Candidate seeks to be nominated, who are not signatories of another Candidates nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election in which the Candidate for the Regional Representative for the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council seeks to be nominated.

8.6 A Candidate may not accept a nomination for more than one position on the MNBC Board of Directors, the Métis Youth of British Columbia, the Métis Women of British Columbia, or the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.

- a) If a current Board Member wishes to stand as a candidate in a by-election, they must resign their current position on the Board of Directors at the date the elections is announced.

8.7 No Métis citizen may accept or place a nomination for a position on the Métis Nation British Columbia Board of Directors, the Métis Youth of British Columbia, the Métis Women of British Columbia, or the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council if that person is or was, at any time during the one year period prior to the date of the Election, a director or officer of another provincial Métis body or association, other than a Métis community, whereby being a director or officer, the Candidate would constitute circumstances in which a real, potential or apprehended conflict of interest would arise. The Chief Electoral Officer shall determine whether circumstances exist under which a real, potential or apprehended conflict of interest would arise.

The Chief Electoral Officer shall determine whether circumstances exist under which a real, potential or apprehended conflict of interest would arise.

8.8 Candidates who use malicious or objectionable practice or conduct themselves in a malicious or objectionable manner during the Campaign Period shall be subject to disqualification at the discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer.

8.9 Candidates shall not be permitted to use the offices or equipment of the MNBC or any program delivery offices for the purposes of presenting or advancing their campaign at

any time during the campaign period.

- 8.10 Upon election, by vote or acclamation, as a Regional Women's or Youth Representative, a Citizen who holds the position of President or Vice-President on a Chartered Community Board must immediately resign from that position.

ARTICLE NINE – ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION

- 9.1. If only one Candidate is nominated for any one office at the close of nominations the Chief Electoral Officer shall declare that Candidate acclaimed to office, the day following the close of nominations.

ARTICLE TEN – NO CANDIDATES NOMINATED

- 10.1. If, after the close of nominations there are offices that remain without Candidates or without persons elected by acclamation, the Chief Electoral Officer shall set another day for the receipt of nominations for the remaining offices subject to available funding. Nominations shall be received for an Election to be held no earlier than three (3) months and no later than six (6) months from the date of the original Election and shall follow the processes and rules set out in this *Electoral Act*.

ARTICLE ELEVEN – POSTING OF NOTICE OF POLL & CANDIDATES

- 11.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall, within five (5) days after the close of nominations, post on the MNBC website a notice indicating the names of the Candidates, the voting method options, and the date and time for voting.
- 11.2 Candidates whose nominations are accepted by the Chief Electoral Officer shall be entitled to receive a copy of the applicable List of Electors, a copy of the *Electoral Act* and other materials as deemed appropriate by the Chief Electoral Officer.

ARTICLE TWELVE – WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATE

- 12.1. A Candidate may withdraw at any time up to twenty-one (21) days prior to Election Day by filing with the Chief Electoral Officer a written, signed and witnessed declaration to that effect.



- 12.2. When a Candidate has withdrawn, the Chief Electoral Officer shall take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that Electors are advised when receiving a ballot.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN – DEATH OF CANDIDATE

- 13.1. If a Candidate for the position of President, Vice-President, Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, or Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council dies after close of nominations and prior to closing of the Polling Stations on Election Day, the Election shall be held.
- 13.2. If a Candidate for Regional Director, Regional Youth Representative of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Regional Women's Representative of the Métis Women of British Columbia, or the Regional Representative of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council dies after close of nominations and prior to closing of the Polling Stations on Election Day, the Election shall be held.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN – APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND POLL CLERK

- 14.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall appoint a Returning Officer and a Poll Clerk for each location where a Polling Station is to be established in the electoral region, or in the case of a Mail-in Ballot in accordance with Sub-Article 5.6 herein the Chief Electoral Officer shall appoint a Returning Officer and Poll Clerks for the location designated to receive ballots.
- a) The Returning Officer with assistance from a Poll Clerk is responsible for the conduct at a Polling Station in an electoral region.
 - b) The following persons shall not be appointed as either a Returning Officer or a Poll Clerk:
 - i. A person who is the spouse, child, brother, sister, mother, father, common-law partner, or individual who lives with any Candidate;
 - ii. A member of the Métis Nation British Columbia Senate;
 - iii. An individual who is a Candidate or a Candidate's representative.
 - iv. A person who is the spouse, child, brother, sister, mother, father, common-law partner, or who lives with either a Returning Officer or Poll Clerk, shall not be appointed for the same Polling Station location.

- 14.2 A person appointed, as either a Returning Officer or Poll Clerk shall hold office from the time appointed until thirty (30) days after the Election Day.
- 14.3 The Chief Electoral Officer may remove from office any Returning Officer or Poll Clerk who:
- a) Is incapable, by reason of illness, of satisfactorily performing their duties under the Electoral Act;
 - b) Fails to discharge competently their duties as Returning Officer or Poll Clerk so as to comply with an instruction of the Chief Electoral Officer;
 - c) Knowingly makes a contribution to a Candidate's campaign whether or not the contravention occurs in the exercise of his or her duties under the Act.
- 14.4 Where a vacancy occurs in the office of Returning Officer or Poll Clerk, the Chief Electoral Officer shall forthwith appoint another person to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN – POLLING HOURS

- 15.1 Polling shall begin at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time or Mountain Daylight Time in accordance with the particular time zone on the date of the Election and close at 8:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time or Mountain Daylight Time on that same day.
- a) Advance polls shall be open for at least four (4) consecutive hours between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the day they are scheduled.
- 15.2 In the case of an Election by Mail-in Ballot, Electors shall be able to mail or deliver their ballots to the location or locations established by the Chief Electoral Officer within such specified period of time as may be established by the Chief Electoral Officer but in any event such period of time shall not be less than fourteen (14) calendar days.
- 15.3 In the case of an Election by Online Voting System, Voters shall be able to vote within such specified period of time as may be established by the Chief Electoral Officer but in any event such period of time shall not be less than 14 calendar days.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN – LOCATION OF POLLING STATIONS

- 16.1 A Polling Station shall be in a location that in the determination of the Chief Electoral Officer is convenient for the Electors.



- 16.2. In the case of an Election by Mail-in Ballot there shall be a location or locations established by the Chief Electoral Officer for the purpose of receiving Mail-In Ballots.
- 16.3. In the case of online voting, the system used shall be secure.
- 16.4. A final List of the Polling Stations will be listed twenty-one (21) days prior to the Election Date.
- 16.5. Best efforts will be made to ensure that every Polling Station will be accessible to persons who have a disability that could affect their ability to vote on the Election date.
- 16.6. No Polling Station may be located in the following places:
 - a) Premises where alcohol or spirits are served; or
 - b) Premises in which a Candidate has an interest.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN – SCRUTINEERS

- 17.1. Each Candidate may appoint Scrutineers in writing to the Chief Electoral Officer to represent them at each Polling Station, and to observe the Election procedures on their behalf.
 - a) A Candidate may appoint more than one Scrutineer to attend a particular Polling Station while voting is in progress but only one Scrutineer per Candidate may be present in the polling area at any one time.
 - b) A Candidate shall supply their scrutineer with a form approved for such use by the Chief Electoral Officer, appointing them as a scrutineer. If scrutineers are only present for part of a day and are replaced by another scrutineer, the replacement scrutineer must have their own form to show the Returning Officer.
- 17.2. Scrutineers may observe the operation of the Polling Station and observe the counting of the ballots.
- 17.3. In the case of a Mail-in Ballot Election a Candidate may appoint up to 2 scrutineers to be present at the designated location or locations during the opening of the ballot boxes and the counting of the ballots.

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN – BALLOT BOXES

- 18.1. The Chief Electoral Officer shall provide each Returning Officer with a ballot box to conduct the Election in his or her region. The ballot box shall be made of durable non-see-through material and accompanied by a sufficient number of appropriate seals. The ballot box shall permit the deposit of ballots but not permit their removal without breaking the seals after they have been attached.

ARTICLE NINETEEN – CONTENTS OF BALLOTS

- 19.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall ensure that a sufficient number of ballots are prepared for an Election.
- 19.2 Each ballot shall be printed in the English language and shall contain the name of the Candidates which shall be arranged with the Candidates for the Offices of President, Vice-President, Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson of the Métis Women's Secretariat-British Columbia, or Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council located first and arranged alphabetically in order of their surnames. The Candidates for Regional Director, Regional Youth Representative of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Regional Women's Representative of the Métis Women's Secretariat-British Columbia, or Regional Representative of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall be located second and arranged alphabetically in the order of their surnames.
- 19.3 If two (2) or more Candidates for the same office have the same surnames, their names shall be listed in alphabetical order according to their given names.
- 19.4 Ballots shall be printed on one side only.

ARTICLE TWENTY – POLLING BOOTHS

- 20.1. Each Polling Station shall contain one or more polling booths arranged so that when an Elector is in the polling booth they are screened from observation and may mark their ballot without interference.
- 20.2. In each polling booth, Electors will be provided with a suitable table, desk or shelf and a

suitable marking instrument for marking their ballots. These materials shall be properly maintained during polling hours.

ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE – MATERIAL AT POLLING STATION

- 21.1 The Returning Officer shall before the opening of the Poll ensure the following are available:
- a) An area where Electors can mark their ballots in private;
 - b) A document providing voting instructions for Electors;
 - c) A Poll Book where the names of all Electors who vote are to be entered;
 - d) A copy of the final List of Electors;
 - e) A ballot box or ballot boxes as required;
 - f) Tape to secure the ballot box or ballot boxes until the ballots are ready to be counted;
 - g) A sufficient number of ballot papers;
 - h) The material necessary to enable Electors to mark the ballot papers;
 - i) Instructions for the Returning Officers and Poll Clerks; and
 - j) Such other forms, office stationery and materials as may be required to enable the Returning Officer to perform their duties.

ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO – PERSONS ENTITLED TO REMAIN IN POLLING AREA

- 22.1 Only the following individuals may remain in a polling area during polling hours:
- a) Returning Officer;
 - b) Poll Clerk;
 - c) Chief Electoral Officer;
 - d) One Scrutineer per Candidate; and
 - e) Interpreters.
- 22.2 Nothing in this *Electoral Act* restricts a Candidate from briefly visiting a Polling Station during polling hours.

ARTICLE TWENTY-THREE – SECRET BALLOT

- 23.1 Voting shall be by secret ballot and in the case of an Election by Mail-in Ballot, a double envelope system as defined by the Chief Electoral Officer shall be used by Electors to send their ballots to the designated location or locations for receiving ballots.

- 23.2 In the case of online voting, the voter shall be required to authenticate their identity. Their identity and the personal authenticity information of the voter shall remain confidential.
- 23.3 No person in attendance at a Polling Station or at the counting of votes shall fail to maintain or fail to aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting.

ARTICLE TWENTY-FOUR – SECRECY OF VOTING

- 24.1 Each Returning Officer, Poll Clerk, Candidate and/or Scrutineer in attendance at a Polling Station or at the counting of the ballots shall assist in maintaining the secrecy of the voting process and they shall not communicate or attempt to communicate any information obtained at the Polling Station regarding which Candidate an Elector has voted for or is about to vote for.
- 24.2 Returning Officers and Poll Clerks shall not communicate any information obtained at the counting of the ballots to any person other than the Chief Electoral Officer or those in their office.

ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE – OPENING OF POLLING STATION - DISPLAY OF BALLOT BOX

- 25.1 Each Returning Officer shall attend the Polling Station at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the opening of his or her Polling Station.
- 25.2 During the 30 minutes immediately prior to the opening of the Polling Station, the Returning Officer shall show the ballot box to Candidates, Scrutineers and other persons entitled to be present so that they may see that the ballot box is empty.
- 25.3 After the ballot box has been shown, it shall be locked or sealed for receipt of ballots and at all times during the hours of voting.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SIX – ADVANCE POLLS

- 26.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall establish at least one advance poll to accommodate electors. Such a poll may take place at a location of a Community which has requested and received a secure ballot box, or may be a mobile polling station, or both, at the discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer. The dates, times, and locations of advance polls will be scheduled to provide reasonable access to as many electors as possible.



26.2 Advance Poll(s) shall be held on a day or days designated by the Chief Electoral Officer.

a) The days and times of a Mobile Polling Station in Communities shall be included in the list of polling stations referenced in Article 16.4 of the MNBC Electoral Act.

26.3 Any person on the list of electors and in possession of a mail ballot who attends an advance poll may mark their ballot and deposit it at that advance poll, in the ballot box reserved for Mail Ballots.

26.4 Any person who meets the criteria set out in Article 6 of this Act and:

- Has not received a mail-in ballot, and
 - Has not voted online, and
- a) Signs a document witnessed by the Chief Electoral Officer or Returning Officer, attesting that they have not voted before and will not vote again in the current election, online, by mail, or in person,

May receive a ballot from the Chief Electoral Officer or Returning Officer at an advance poll conducted in their Community or Region where they are ordinarily resident and vote in person.

26.5 Any person who has received a mail ballot and has spoiled it:

- i. May exchange the spoiled ballot for a replacement ballot, or
- ii. If not in possession of the spoiled ballot, may receive a replacement ballot after signing a document witnessed by the Chief Electoral Officer or Returning Officer, attesting that they have not voted before and will not vote again in the current election, online, by mail, or in person;

at an advance poll conducted in their Community or Region where they are ordinarily resident and vote in person

The Chief Electoral Officer or Returning Officer shall ensure a log of replacement ballots is kept.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SEVEN – POLL BOOKS

27.1 Each Returning Officer shall be provided with a Poll Book in which the Returning Officer or the Poll Clerk shall enter the names of all Electors who attend the Polling Station and

apply to vote unless those names are previously printed therein. The Returning Officer or Poll Clerk shall record whether those Electors are objected to or vouched for and by whom and if objected to whether the Elector voted or not.

ARTICLE TWENTY-EIGHT – GENERAL PROCEDURES AT POLLING STATION

- 28.1 Where an Elector presents themselves at the Polling Station for the purpose of voting, the voting process shall proceed as follows:
- a) Each Elector shall present their MNBC Citizenship Card for the purpose of proving their identity and Métis citizenship to the Returning Officer.
 - b) The Returning Officer shall ascertain whether the name of the person applying to vote (the “Applicant”) is on the List of Electors and, if it is,
 - c) Each eligible Elector shall be given a ballot to be marked clearly, in secret, for the Candidate of that Elector’s choice which thereafter shall be placed in a ballot box as instructed by the Returning Officer.
 - d) If the Applicant’s name is not on the List of Electors, the Returning Officer shall not permit that person to vote unless the Applicant can present a valid MNBC Citizenship Card that can be verified by the Returning Officer as being the MNBC Citizenship Card of the Applicant.
 - e) In the event that the Applicant can produce a valid MNBC Citizenship Card, the Returning Officer shall record, in the proper column of the Poll Book, the Applicant’s name, address and MNBC Citizenship number and shall provide that Applicant with a ballot paper on which the Applicant shall clearly mark, in secret, the Applicant’s choice of Candidate.
 - f) Upon being presented with a completed ballot by a person who is not on the List of Electors at the Polling Station where the Applicant has attended to vote and was permitted to vote by the Returning Officer, the Returning Officer shall:
 - i. Place the Applicant’s ballot in an envelope with the Applicant’s name, the date and time noted;
 - ii. Place that envelope into another envelope that shall be kept separate from the ballots cast by Electors (whose names were located on the List of Electors for that Polling Station) and forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer for verification of the eligibility of the Applicant.
 - g) If verified as eligible by the Chief Electoral Officer, the Applicant’s vote shall be counted.
 - h) Any Candidate or their scrutineer may object to the eligibility of any Métis citizen requesting a ballot. If in the opinion of the Returning Officer such objection is



reasonable, it shall be noted in the Poll Book and shall include the reason for the objection along with the name of the Candidate on whose behalf the objection is being made. The Returning Officer may then give the Métis Citizen a ballot paper so that the Métis Citizen may cast their ballot. In the event of an objection to the Métis Citizen, the Returning Officer shall follow the procedure under Article 36.7 of this *Electoral Act*.

- i) The Returning Officer shall record the names and obtain the signatures of all persons who, although deemed ineligible to vote, attended at the Polling Station and requested a ballot.”

ARTICLE TWENTY-NINE – CONDUCT AT POLLING STATION

- 29.1. No person shall interfere or attempt to interfere with an Elector who is marking their ballot or casting their vote or otherwise make any attempt to obtain, at the Polling Station, information as to the Candidate or Candidates for whom an Elector at that Polling Station is about to vote or has voted.
 - a) No individual shall, directly or indirectly, threaten to inflict injury, damage, harm or loss on or against an Elector so as to persuade or compel the Elector to vote or refrain from voting, or because the Elector voted or refrained from voting.
- 29.2. No person shall, having voted, apply at the same Election for a ballot paper in the Elector’s own name, or vote more than once at the same Election.
- 29.3. No individual shall vote knowing that they have no right to vote, or induce or persuade any other individual to vote knowing that the other individual has no right to vote.
- 29.4. No person shall apply at an Election for a ballot paper in the name of another person, whether living or dead, or a fictitious person.
- 29.5. The campaign office of a Candidate must not be within one (1) kilometer of a Polling Station.
- 29.6. There shall be no campaigning in or in the vicinity of a Polling Station on Election Day.
- 29.7. Every Returning Officer and Poll Clerk is responsible for maintaining peace and order in their Polling Station during an Election.
- 29.8. During an Election, no Candidate or other person on behalf of a Candidate shall, directly

or indirectly, or as an accessory, give or cause to be given any alcohol or spirits to or for any person, for the purpose of persuading that person to vote for the Candidate or for the purpose of influencing that person or any other person to vote or refrain from voting at an Election.

- 29.9. No Candidate shall make or take a share or interest in a bet or wager based on the result of the Election.
- 29.10. Any person in breach of Article 29 of this *Electoral Act* will be removed from the Polling Station and will not be entitled to vote.

ARTICLE THIRTY – EXPLANATION OF VOTING

- 30.1 The Returning Officer may and upon request shall, either personally or through their Poll Clerk explain to the Elector as concisely as possible the way in which voting is to be performed.

ARTICLE THIRTY-ONE – VOTING BY A DISABLED PERSON

- 31.1. Where an Elector on the List of Electors comes to a Polling Station to vote and is unable to mark a ballot due to an inability to read or has a physical or mental disability, the Returning Officer shall:
- a) Have a friend or relative complete an Elector Assistance Form indicating the name of the Elector, their own name and the reason the person is incapable of voting alone;
 - b) Permit that person to accompany the Elector into the polling area to mark the ballot in accordance with the Elector's instructions;
 - c) Receive the completed ballot, check their initials and place the ballot in the ballot box; and
 - d) Enter the reason the Elector was permitted to vote in this manner, and the name of the person who assisted the Elector, in the Poll Book.
- 31.2. An individual other than an Election Officer must not act to assist more than one Elector in an Election to mark a ballot unless the individual is assisting more than one member of their family.



ARTICLE THIRTY-TWO – APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERPRETER

- 32.1 Where the Returning Officer has been given thirty (30) days advance notice by a Métis Community or an Elector in that Métis Community, that an Elector or Electors who are unable to speak or read the English Language may present themselves at a Polling Station, subject always to availability, an interpreter may be provided by the Returning Officer for the purpose of explaining to those Electors, questions and answers concerning voting in the following languages: Michif, French or Cree.
- 32.2 The interpreter must make a solemn declaration that they are able to make the translation and will do so to the best of their abilities.
- 32.3 Every interpreter shall make a declaration of secrecy.

ARTICLE THIRTY-THREE – REMOVAL OF BALLOT FROM POLLING STATION

- 33.1 Except in the case of a Mail-in Ballot an Elector who has received a ballot paper shall not take it out of the Polling Station.

ARTICLE THIRTY-FOUR – FORFEITURE OF VOTING RIGHTS

- 34.1 Where an Elector leaves the Polling Station without first delivering their ballot paper to the Returning Officer or returns it after declining to vote, they forfeit their right to vote and the Returning Officer shall make an entry in the Poll Book in the column for remarks to the effect that the Elector received the ballot paper, but took it out of the Polling Station or returned it declining to vote.
- 34.2 Where an Elector returns their ballot paper declining to vote, the Returning Officer shall immediately write the word “declined” upon it and preserve the ballot paper.

ARTICLE THIRTY-FIVE – SPOILED BALLOT

- 35.1 An Elector, who upon voting, has inadvertently spoiled their ballot paper may on returning it to the Returning Officer obtain another ballot paper and the Returning Officer shall immediately write the word “spoiled” upon the returned ballot paper and preserve it as set out in this Article.

ARTICLE THIRTY-SIX – PROCEDURE ON CLOSE OF POLL

- 36.1. After the closing of the poll, the Returning Officer shall, in the presence of the Poll Clerk and any Candidate and/or Scrutineers who may be present, immediately:
- a) Count the number of spoiled and declined ballots and record the total on the outside of the envelope containing these ballots and then seal it; and comply with the procedures as set out in Article 28 herein.
- 36.2. On complying with subsection 36.1, the Returning Officer shall count the number of Electors whose name appears on the List of Electors and the number of Electors recorded in the Poll Book as having voted and those persons who having attended were deemed ineligible to vote and shall draw a line immediately under the last name in the Poll Book and affix their initials to the list.
- 36.3. On complying with Subsection 36.2, the Returning Officer shall open the ballot box and proceed with a count of vote and record the result.
- 36.4. The Returning Officer shall endorse with the words “not initialed” any ballot paper that does not have their initials or the initials of such person acting on their behalf on the back thereof and any such ballot shall be counted with the other ballots but immediately upon the conclusion of the count, the Returning Officer shall:
- a) Count the number of “not initialed” ballots, and
 - b) Record the total on the outside of the envelope containing these ballots and seal it.
- 36.5. In counting votes, the Returning Officer shall reject any ballot that:
- a) Was not supplied by them;
 - b) Does not indicate any vote for any Candidate;
 - c) Contains votes for more Candidates than are to be elected;
 - d) Is so marked, that it is uncertain for which Candidate the vote was cast; and
 - e) Contains any writing or mark enabling the Elector to be readily identified.
- 36.6. Notwithstanding Subsection 36.5, a ballot shall not be rejected:
- a) By reason of any writing, numbering or mark omitted by the Returning Officer; or
 - b) When the vote, though incorrectly made on the ballot, clearly indicates the Elector’s intention to vote for one particular Candidate.



- 36.7 In the event the Returning Officer determines that an Elector's right to vote has been reasonably disputed pursuant to Article 28, the Returning Officer shall make a note in the Poll Book of every objection and the name of any Candidate on whose behalf such objection was made. The Returning Officer shall place such ballot in a special envelope that shall, on its cover, contain the name of the Elector, their MNBC Citizenship number, the name of the Polling Station and the Returning Officer initials. Such envelopes shall be preserved by the Returning Officer and forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer. The Returning Officer shall also forward the specific objection to such Elector, as noted in the Poll Book. The Chief Electoral Officer shall investigate the objection of such Elector and in the event the Chief Electoral Officer determines that the objection is valid, the ballot shall be placed in a separate envelope and shall not be counted. If the Chief Electoral Officer determines that the objection is without merit, the envelope shall be opened and the Chief Electoral Officer shall count the vote(s).
- 36.8 The Returning Officer at the conclusion of the count shall complete a statement of poll, indicating the number of votes for each Candidate, which shall be signed by the Returning Officer and Poll Clerk. The Returning Officer shall then immediately inform the Chief Electoral Officer, by phone or by fax, as to the number of votes for each Candidate, the number of spoiled ballots and any disputed Electors.
- 36.9 A copy of the statement of poll shall be attached to the Poll Book and one page shall be retained by the Returning Officer to be sent to the Chief Electoral Officer.
- 36.10 Upon completion of the statement of poll, the Returning Officer shall in presence of the persons authorized to be present, place into separate packets the:
- a) Statement of poll;
 - b) The ballots objected to but counted;
 - c) The ballots objected to but not counted;
 - d) The rejected ballots not objected to;
 - e) The rejected ballots objected to;
 - f) The spoiled and declined ballots;
 - g) The discarded ballots;
 - h) The unused ballots;
 - i) The envelopes containing the ballots of those persons who voted in accordance with Article 28 herein;
 - j) The Poll Book with the declaration of the Returning Officer therein;
 - k) The List of Electors used at the poll;

- l) The declaration of Electors;
- m) The statement of the number of Electors as marked by the Returning Officer as “Voter assistance”;
- n) The notes taken of objections to ballot papers found in the ballot box; and
- o) All other documents that were completed prepared or used at the Election.

36.11 The Returning Officer shall seal each of the envelopes mentioned in Section 36.10 with their own seal and initial the outside of the envelopes.

36.12 The Returning Officer shall mark on the outside of each of the envelopes a short statement of the contents of the envelopes, the date and name of the Election and their name.

36.13 The Returning Officer shall then return all envelopes and relevant documents to the Chief Electoral Officer as directed.

ARTICLE THIRTY-SEVEN – ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOTE

37.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall publicly announce the results of the Election and declare elected the Candidates who received the largest number of votes.

37.2 When the original reports and ballots have been received from the Returning Officers, the Chief Electoral Officer shall check the reports, but not the ballots, and verify or confirm the results.

ARTICLE THIRTY-EIGHT – RECOUNT

38.1 Subject to Article 37.2 herein, the Chief Electoral Officer shall recount the ballots where applicable if the Chief Electoral Officer decides that there is a need for a recount or if they receive a written request to recount from a Candidate within seven (7) days from the date of the Election;

38.2 A Candidate shall be entitled to require a recount if:

- a) The Candidate has been nominated to contest the position of President, Vice-President, Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, the Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, or the Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council;
- b) The Candidate has been nominated to contest the position of Regional Director,



- Regional Representative for the Métis Women of British Columbia (MWBC),
Regional Youth Representative for the Métis Youth of British Columbia, or
Regional Representative for the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council;
- c) There are no more than fifteen (15) votes difference between the Candidate who has the most votes for that position and the Candidate requesting a recount;
and
- d) Two (2) or more Candidates for the same position have an equal number of votes, the Chief Electoral Officer shall declare a tie and conduct a recount.

ARTICLE THIRTY-NINE – RECOUNT PROCEDURE AND TIE BREAKING VOTE

- 39.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall give written notice to each Candidate of the place, date and hour of the recount
- 39.2 The recount shall, if possible, be held within the next seven (7) days from receipt of a Candidate's written request for a recount.
- 39.3 No person may be allowed in the room where the recount is being conducted except the following:
 - a) The Chief Electoral Officer;
 - b) The Returning Officer (at the CEO recommendation);
 - c) The Candidates or an Elector appointed in writing to be present on behalf of each of the Candidates.
- 39.4 In recounting the ballots, the Chief Electoral Officer shall follow the same counting rules that a Returning Officer is required to follow under this *Electoral Act*.
- 39.5 The Chief Electoral Officer will be required to set another Election Day in the event of a tie between two or more Candidates receiving the most votes for the same position. The Election in that event would be conducted solely for the purpose of filling the subject position and only the tied Candidates would be eligible to run. Such Election shall be held no earlier than three (3) months and no later than six (6) months from the date of the original Election and shall follow the process and rules set out in this *Electoral Act*.

ARTICLE FORTY – ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECOUNT RESULTS

- 40.1 Upon the completion of any and all recounts, the Chief Electoral Officer shall certify the final results of the Election publicly announce the results of the recount and declare the names of the successful Candidate who received the largest number of votes.

ARTICLE FORTY-ONE – DESTROYING BALLOTS

- 41.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall destroy all ballots ninety (90) days from the date of the Election unless:
- a) Directed by an order of a Court; or
 - b) Directed by an order of the Senate; or
 - c) A request for a recount is received in which case the ballots shall be destroyed after ninety (90) days from the date of the recount unless otherwise ordered.

ARTICLE FORTY-TWO – ELECTION APPEAL

- 42.1 Decisions of the Chief Electoral Officer during an Election may be appealed to the Métis Nation British Columbia Senate.
- a) The Chief Electoral Officer will have the authority to refuse Candidates and voters who do not meet the required eligibility pre-requisites and deadlines set out in the MNBC Electoral Act.
 - b) All Candidates or electors refused will have the option to file a written Election appeal before the Métis Nation British Columbia Senate.
- 42.2 A Candidate or elector will have fourteen (14) days from the date of the Election or fourteen Days from the date of the recount to file a written Election appeal before the MNBC Senate.
- a) The written appeal sent to the MNBC Senate should outline the rationale of the Election appeal, along with any documents or other materials that should assist the appeal.
 - b) As part of filing an Election appeal, the Candidate or elector shall deposit with the MNBC Finance Department the sum of \$150.00 in cash or money order. This deposit is non-refundable and serves as security for administrative costs in connection with carrying out the appeal process.



- 42.3 The Chief Electoral Officer will provide information at the request of the MNBC Senate during the Election appeals process so as to deliver a fair and balanced decision.
- a) The Chief Electoral Officer will be responsible in providing reasons for refusal as supported by the Articles in the Electoral Act.
 - b) The MNBC Senate reserves the right to set a date when the Candidate or elector who filed the Election appeal may present their arguments in person. The onus to prove the appeal to the satisfaction of the MNBC is upon the individual who filed the Election appeal.

ARTICLE FORTY-THREE – GENERAL

- 43.1 The appeal will not be successful if it is shown that the Election was conducted in accordance with this Election Act and that the irregularity, failure, non-compliance or mistake did not materially affect the result of the Election, and no Election is void by reason of:
- a) Failure to publish, late distribution or non-receipt of the Métis communities;
 - b) A failure to hold a poll at any place appointed for holding a poll;
 - c) A non-compliance with the provisions of this Electoral Act relating to the counting of the votes or with regard to limitations of time; or
 - d) Any mistake in the use of the prescribed forms.

ARTICLE FORTY-FOUR – INTERPRETATION

- 44.1. Unless the context otherwise requires, words imparting the singular number shall include the plural number, as the case may be, and vice-versa.

ARTICLE FORTY-FIVE – REGULATORY AUTHORITY

45. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly may, by resolution, make election rules regarding matters not specifically set out in the *Electoral Act*. Such rules will expire 30 days after election day for the election they pertain to.

MÉTIS NATION VETERANS ACT

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



RATIFIED – SEPTEMBER 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



ARTICLE ONE

- 1.1 This act may be cited as the Veterans Act (the “Act”).

ARTICLE TWO – PURPOSE OF THE ACT

- 2.1 The purpose of this Act is to define the role and position of the Métis Veterans of British Columbia (the “MVBC”) within the MNBC.

ARTICLE THREE – MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Métis who have received a MNBC Citizenship Card and who meet the Department of Veterans Affairs Canada definition for a Veteran, being a current member or, a former member of, the Canadian Armed Forces (Regular Forces or Reserve Forces), that was released with an honourable discharge and, who successfully underwent basic training is considered to be a Métis Veteran. A Métis Veteran shall also include those still serving or retired RCMP members. The “Veterans” shall, upon submission of proof of service and Métis Citizenship and upon application to the MVBC being approved, be the members of the MVBC (hereinafter “Members”).
- 3.2 The spouses and children of MVBC Members who wish to join MVBC may apply for associate membership of MVBC and may be accepted as an associate member (the “Associate Member” or “Associate Members” as the case may be) of MVBC. The MVBC Committee will assess and accept or deny applications for Associate Membership.
- 3.3 The MVBC Committee may, at their sole discretion, revoke a person’s associate membership.
- 3.4 Associate Members shall not be permitted to participate or vote at a meeting of the MVBC and shall not be entitled to appointment to the MVBC Committee.
- 3.5 A Member or Associate Member may resign their membership in MVBC, through a written request submitted to the MVBC Committee.

ARTICLE FOUR – METIS VETERANS BC COMMITTEE

- 4.1 Métis Veterans BC Committee (the “MVBC Committee”) shall be constituted of a Métis Veteran Chairperson, seven Métis Veteran Representatives (the “Regional Representatives”), a Woman Veteran Representative, and a Service Officer, all being MVBC members.
- 4.2 The MVBC Membership shall elect from among themselves the Chairperson, Women’s Representative, and Service Officer. The MVBC Regional Representatives shall be appointed in consultation with the appropriate MNBC Regional Governance Council.
- 4.3 The term of office for all MVBC Committee members shall be no more than four (4) years. Elections and appointments shall be held at a MVBC General Meeting, in the year on which the term for those MVBC Committee members shall expire.
- 4.4 The MNBC Minister of Veterans will notify the relevant Regional Director no less than ninety (90) days before their MVBC Regional Representative term will expire, and an appointment must be made by the Regional Governance Council, if a suitable candidate can be found.
- 4.5 No Member may serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms as Chairperson, Women’s Representative, or Service Officer, without the approval of the MNBC Minister of Veterans.
- 4.6 At least one member of the MVBC Committee shall be a serving or retired member of the RCMP, if a suitable candidate can be found.
- 4.7 A Treasurer and Membership Clerk will be appointed by the MVBC Committee from the MVBC Committee Regional Representatives, who, together with the Chairperson, Women’s Representative, and Service Officer, shall collectively act and be known as the “Executive Committee”.
- 4.8 The MVBC Committee shall be responsible for the following duties and functions on behalf of the Métis Veterans British Columbia:
 - a) Maintenance of policy and procedures relating to the conduct and mandate of the Métis Veterans and Associate Members;
 - b) Maintenance of a list of all Métis Veterans and Associate Members in British

Columbia as defined by article three (3);

- c) Prepare an annual report for presentation at the MNBC Annual General Meeting, and other reports as requested by the MNBC Minister of Veterans;
- d) Serve as Gabriel Dumont Scouts as may be requested by MNBC from time to time;
- e) Co-ordinate and organize flag processions and flag placement as requested or appropriate from time to time; and other duties as required;
- f) Advocate to enhance the status of Métis Veterans;
- g) Provide service and support to Métis Veterans in British Columbia;
- h) Represent themselves as Métis veterans at municipal, provincial, federal, commemorative, or other events.

- 4.9 Subject to available funding, the MVBC Committee shall meet at least twice per year at a location chosen by the MVBC Committee and may be held in conjunction with the MNBC Annual General Meeting or a MNBC Métis Nation Governing Assembly. The MVBC General Meeting will generally be held in conjunction with the MNBC Annual General Meeting.
- 4.10 Meetings of the MVBC Committee shall be called by the Chairperson. In the event that the Chairperson is unwilling or unable to call a meeting, three MVBC Committee members may call a meeting.
- 4.11 No less than seven (7) days' notice of a MVBC Committee meeting will be provided to all MVBC Committee members.
- 4.12 An MVBC Member, while conducting their duties of the MVBC, shall not be subject to any civil action, lawsuit, or prosecution, as a result of anything done or not done in relation to their duties.

ARTICLE FIVE – MNBC MINISTER OF VETERANS

- 5.1 The MNBC Minister of Veterans shall be an MNBC Board Member.
- 5.2 The MNBC Minister of Veterans shall provide Provincial and Federal representation on behalf of the MVBC and will be accountable to the MVBC Committee. In the event the Minister of Veterans is unable to attend, the Minister may request that an alternate MNBC Board Member and the Chairperson of the MVBC attend in their place.

- 5.3 For the purpose of official business, the voice of the MVBC shall be brought to the MNBC, Métis National Council, Federal and Provincial Governments, organizations, and associations through the Minister in consultation with the MVBC Committee.



MÉTIS NATION WOMEN'S ACT

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



RATIFIED – SEPTEMBER 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PREAMBLE

0.0 Mission Statement of the Métis Women of British Columbia:

“We the Métis women of B.C. have an agenda of an open heart and we respect and trust in the process. We are encouraging appropriate relationships, principles and procedures.”

ARTICLE ONE – TITLE

1.0 This act may be cited as the MNBC Women’s Act (the “Act”).

ARTICLE TWO – PURPOSE OF THE ACT

2.0 The purpose of this Act is to entrench the Métis Women of British Columbia (the “MWBC”) in the MNBC governance structure to ensure that Métis Women are equally represented and engaged in all levels of governance.

ARTICLE THREE - DEFINITIONS

3.1 In this Act:

3.2 **“MWBC Provincial Governance Council”** means the seven elected Métis Women’s representatives, one from each Region and the Métis Women’s Chairperson also known as the Minister Responsible for Métis Women.

3.3 **“Legislation”** means legislative documents, laws and/or acts including amendments to existing legislative documents, laws and/or acts.

3.4 **“MWBC”** means the Métis Women of British Columbia.

3.5 **“Minister Responsible for Métis Women”** means the person elected as MNBC Provincial Métis Women’s Chairperson in accordance with the provisions of the MNBC Electoral Act, who shall serve as the Minister Responsible for Métis Women on the MNBC Board of Directors.

3.6 **“The Provincial Métis Women’s Chairperson”** the MNBC Métis Women’s representative



elected in a Province wide election in accordance with the provisions of the *MNBC Electoral Act*.

- 3.7 **“Regional Métis Women’s Representative”** means the MNBC Métis Women’s Representative elected to represent the Métis Women of a Region in accordance with the provisions of the *MNBC Electoral Act*.
- 3.8 **“Métis Women”** means those Métis Women residing in British Columbia, 18 years of age and older.
- 3.9 **“Métis Nation Governing Assembly”** (MNGA) means the legislative body of the MNBC, as set out in the *Constitution*.
- 3.10 **“MNBC Assembly”** means MNBC Annual General Meeting (AGM).

ARTICLE FOUR – GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 MWBC shall:
- 4.2 The MWBC Provincial Governance Council acknowledges and accepts the MNBC Constitution as the law governing the MWBC and agrees to comply with the provisions of the MNBC Constitution and MNBC Legislation.
- 4.3 The objective of MWBC is to listen to Métis Women, to voice Métis Women’s perspectives, and to acknowledge the past and present contributions of Métis Women for the benefit of Métis People and the Métis Nation.
- 4.4 The voice of the Métis Women in British Columbia shall be brought to the MNBC, Métis National Council, Women of the Métis Nation Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, Federal and Provincial Governments, organizations and associations through the MWBC Committee.

ARTICLE FIVE – MWBC GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- 5.1 MWBC shall:

- 5.2 The MWBC Provincial Governance Council shall attend every MNGA Assembly and MNBC Assembly.
- 5.3 The Provincial Women's Chairperson is a voting director on the MNBC Board of Directors.
- 5.4 The Provincial Women's Chairperson shall provide Provincial and Federal representation and be accountable to the Provincial Governance Council and the MNBC Board of Directors.
- a) Upon election, by vote or acclamation, as a Regional Women's Representative, a Citizen who holds the position of President or Vice-President on a Chartered Community Board must immediately resign from that position.
 - i. If the position of Regional Women's Representative is vacant between elections, a President or Vice-President of a Chartered Community may be appointed to the position on an interim basis, subject to the procedures set out in the Constitution and the MNGA Act
- 5.5 The seven Regional Women's Representatives each shall hold voting seats on their respective Regional Governance Councils.
- 5.6 All Métis Women of British Columbia (MWBC) Provincial Governance Council members shall not be subject to any civil action, suit or prosecution as a result of anything done or not done in relation to the performance of their duties as Métis Women of British Columbia representatives.
- 5.7 The MWBC Provincial Governance Council shall elect, from among its members, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary-Treasurer.
- 5.8 The MWBC Provincial Governance Council shall hold no less than four meetings, including telephone or in person meetings, each year called by the Minister Responsible for Women or, in the event the Minister Responsible for Women is unwilling or unable to call a meeting shall be called by the Vice-Chair.
- 5.9 MWBC shall prepare and maintain written minutes of all meetings and conference calls (the "MWBC Minutes").

- 5.10 MWBC Minutes shall be archived in the head office of the Métis Nation British Columbia.
- 5.11 The MWBC Provincial Governance Council shall, on behalf of the MWBC take such action or hold such functions as may be deemed appropriate to encourage and support the Spiritual, Physical, Mental and Emotional well being Métis Women or for funding purposes.

ARTICLE SIX – ELECTORAL PROCESSES

- 6.1 MWBC electoral processes are:
- 6.2 Métis Women seeking elected office must meet all eligibility requirements as set out in the *MNBC Constitution* and the *MNBC Electoral Act*.
- 6.3 The MWBC Provincial Governance Council shall be elected for a 4-year term in conjunction with the *MNBC Electoral Act*.

MÉTIS NATION YOUTH ACT

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



RATIFIED – SEPTEMBER 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ARTICLE ONE - TITLE

1.0 This act may be cited as the Youth Act (the “Act”).

ARTICLE TWO – PURPOSE OF THE ACT

2.0 The purpose of this Act is to entrench the Métis Youth of British Columbia (the “MYBC”) in the MNBC governance structure to ensure that Métis Youth are equally represented and engaged in all levels of governance.

ARTICLE THREE - DEFINITIONS

3.1 In this Act:

3.2 “**MYBC Committee**” means the seven elected youth representatives, one from each Region and the Chairperson also known as the Minister Responsible for Youth.

3.3 “**Legislation**” means legislative documents, laws and/or acts including amendments to existing legislative documents, laws and/or acts.

3.4 “**MYBC**” means the Métis Youth of British Columbia.

3.5 “**Minister Responsible for Youth**” means the person elected as MNBC Provincial Youth Chairperson in accordance with the provisions of the *MNBC Electoral Act*, and appointed as the Minister Responsible for Youth by the MNBC President. All Métis Youth BC (MYBC) committee members shall not be subject to any civil action, suit or prosecution as a result of anything done or not done in relation to the performance of their duties as Métis Youth BC representatives.

3.6 “**The Provincial Youth Chairperson**” the MNBC Youth representative elected in a Province wide election in accordance with the provisions of the *MNBC Electoral Act*.

3.7 “**Regional Youth Representative**” means the MNBC Youth Representative elected to represent the Métis Youth of a Region in accordance with the provisions of the *MNBC Electoral Act*.

- 3.8 “**Métis Youth**” means those Métis Citizens between 15 to and including 30 years of age.
- 3.9 “**Ministry of Youth Lead**” shall mean an employee of Métis Nation BC who is hired or appointed as the Ministry of Youth Lead to support and further the Métis Youth of British Columbia.

ARTICLE FOUR – GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 MYBC shall:
- 4.2 The MYBC Committee acknowledges and accepts the *MNBC Constitution* as the supreme law governing the MYBC and agrees to comply with the provisions of the *Constitution* and *MNBC Legislation*.
- 4.3 The objective of MYBC is to advance and enhance valuable Métis Youth perspectives, and to acknowledge Métis Youth for the benefit of the Métis Nation.
- 4.4 The voice of the Métis Youth in British Columbia shall be brought to the MNBC, Métis National Council, Federal and Provincial Governments, organizations and associations through the MYBC Committee.
- 4.5 The Ministry of Youth Lead shall assist MYBC in all administrative functions in advancing all MYBC youth initiatives throughout the Province.
- 4.6 The Ministry of Youth Lead shall actively pursue funding to support and maintain the activities of the MYBC.

ARTICLE FIVE – MYBC GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- 5.1 MYBC shall:
- 5.2 The MYBC Committee shall, subject to available funding, attend every MNGA and MNBC.
- 5.3 The Provincial Youth Chairperson is a voting director on the MNBC Board of Directors.
- 5.4 The Provincial Youth Chairperson shall provide Provincial and Federal representation and be accountable to the MYBC Committee and the MNBC Board of Directors

- 5.5 The seven Regional Youth Representatives each shall hold voting seats on their respective Regional Governance Councils and on the MYBC Committee.
- a) Upon election, by vote or acclamation, as a Regional Youth Representative, a Citizen who holds the position of President or Vice-President on a Chartered Community Board must immediately resign from that position.
 - i. If the position of Regional Youth Representative is vacant between elections, a President or Vice-President of a Chartered Community may be appointed to the position on an interim basis, subject to procedures set out in the *Constitution* and the *MNGA Act*.
- 5.6 The regional youth representatives should be accountable to the Métis Youth BC (MYBC) Committee, their Regional Governance Councils and Métis citizens of BC.
- 5.7 The MYBC Committee shall elect, from among its members, a Vice-Chair, and may elect a Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be referred to as the “Executive”.
- 5.8 The MYBC Committee shall, subject to available funding, hold no less than four meetings, including telephone, video, or in person meetings, each year called by the Minister Responsible for Youth or, in the event the Minister Responsible for Youth is unwilling or unable to call a meeting shall be called by the Co-Chair.
- 5.9 MYBC shall prepare and maintain written minutes of all meetings and conference calls (the “MYBC Minutes”).
- 5.10 MYBC Minutes shall be archived in the head office of the Métis Nation British Columbia.
- 5.11 The MYBC Committee shall, on behalf of the MYBC take such action or hold such functions as may be deemed appropriate to enhance the status of Métis Youth or for funding purposes.

ARTICLE SIX – ELECTORAL PROCESSES

- 6.0 MYBC electoral processes shall:
- 6.1 Métis Youth seeking elected office must meet all eligibility requirements as set out in the *Constitution* and the *MNBC Electoral Act*.

- 6.2 The MYBC Committee, including the Provincial Métis Youth Chairperson, shall be elected for a four (4) year term in conjunction with the *MNBC Electoral Act* and *MNBC Guidelines*.
- 6.3 In the event a vacancy in the MYBC Committee shall arise due to the resignation, removal, suspension or otherwise of a MYBC Committee Member, the MYBC Committee shall hold a by-election in accordance with the *MNBC Electoral Act*.

MÉTIS NATION 2SLGBTQQIA+ ACT

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



RATIFIED – SEPTEMBER 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PREAMBLE

0.0 Mission statement of the Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ of British Columbia:

“We, the Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ of B.C. vow to walk with integrity as the proud Otipemisiwak (people who govern themselves) our ancestors prayed for; to elevate and center the voices of our people in the decisions that impact our nation; to foster a culture of wahkohtowin (kinship/interconnectedness) within our Nation; and to build a future where 2SLGBTQQIA+ can thrive alongside niwahkōmāk,anak (our relatives).”

ARTICLE ONE - TITLE

1.0 This Act may be cited as the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Act (“the “Act”)

ARTICLE TWO - PURPOSE OF THE ACT

2.0 The purpose of this act is to entrench Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people living in British Columbia (the “2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council”) in the MNBC governance structure to ensure that Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are equally represented and engaged in all levels of governance.

2.1 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council acknowledges and accepts the MNBC Constitution as the law governing the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council and agrees to comply with the provisions of the MNBC Constitution and MNBC Legislation

2.2 The objective of 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council is to advance and enhance Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ perspectives, and to acknowledge the contributions of Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people for the benefit of Métis people and the Métis Nation.

2.3 The voice of Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in British Columbia shall be brought to the MNBC, Métis National Council, Women of the Métis Nation Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, Federal and Provincial Governments, organizations and associations through the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.



ARTICLE THREE - DEFINITIONS

3.0 In this Act:

- 3.1 **“2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council”** means the seven elected 2SLGBTQQIA+ representatives, one from each Region, and the chairperson also known as the Minister responsible for Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
- 3.2 **“Legislation”** means legislative documents, laws and/or acts including amendments to existing legislative documents, laws and/or acts.
- 3.3 **“Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ person/individual”** means those Métis individuals who identify as 2SLGBTQQIA+.
- 3.4 **“M2SBC”** Means the Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ of British Columbia
- 3.4 **“Métis Nation Governing Assembly” (MNGA)** means the governing legislative body of the MNBC, as set out in the Constitution.
- 3.5 **“MNBC Assembly”** means MNBC Annual General Meeting (AGM).

ARTICLE FOUR - 2SLGBTQQIA+ PROVINCIAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

- 4.1 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council will be the representative body of Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in British Columbia, comprised of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Chairperson and the seven (7) 2SLGBTQQIA+ Regional Representatives
- 4.2 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council will be chaired by a person elected through the Electoral Act as the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Chairperson.
- 4.3 The Minister Responsible for Metis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people living in British Columbia will be the person elected as MNBC Provincial 2SLGBTQQIA+ Chairperson in accordance with the provisions of the MNBC Electoral Act, who shall serve as the Minister Responsible for Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people on the MNBC Board of Directors.
- 4.4 The Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representatives will be elected by Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people living in their respective region in accordance with the provision of the MNBC Electoral Act.

- 4.5 The Director of 2SLGBTQQIA+ Equity will be an employee of Métis Nation BC who is hired or appointed as the Director of 2SLGBTQQIA+ to support and further Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people living in British Columbia.

ARTICLE FIVE - 2SLGBTQQIA+ PROVINCIAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL STRUCTURE

5.0 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall,

- 5.1 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council Chairperson or, in the event the Chairperson is unable to attend, an appointed representative on behalf of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall attend every MNGA Assembly and MNBC Assembly.
- 5.2 The Provincial 2SLGBTQQIA+ Chairperson will serve as a voting Director on the MNBC Board of Directors.
- 5.3 The Provincial 2SLGBTQQIA+ Chairperson shall provide Provincial and Federal representation and be accountable to the Provincial Governance Council and the MNBC Board of Directors.
- 5.4 The seven Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representatives each shall hold voting seats on their respective Regional Governance Councils.
- 5.5 The regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ representatives will be accountable to the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council, their Regional Governance Councils and Métis citizens of BC.
- 5.6 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall hold no less than four meetings, including virtual or in person meetings, each year called by the Minister Responsible for 2SLGBTQQIA+ Métis People or, in the event the Minister Responsible for 2SLGBTQQIA+ Métis People is unwilling or unable to call a meeting shall be called by a majority vote of the members of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
- 5.7 Quorum of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Governance Council is a majority of currently sitting members.

- 5.7 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Governance Council shall prepare and maintain written minutes of all in person or virtual meetings (the “2SLGBTQQIA+ Governance Council Meeting Minutes”).
- 5.8 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Governance Council Meeting Minutes shall be retained in the office of the Director of 2SLGBTQQIA+ Equity/head office of the Métis Nation British Columbia.
- 5.9 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall, on behalf of Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people living in British Columbia take such action or hold such functions as may be deemed appropriate to encourage and support equity for, and the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional well being of Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, including seeking funding for 2SLGBTQQIA+ initiatives.

ARTICLE SIX - ELECTORAL PROCESS

- 6.0 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council electoral processes are,
 - 6.1 Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals seeking elected office must meet all eligibility requirements as set out in the MNBC Constitution, the MNBC *Electoral Act*, and the MNBC guidelines.
 - 6.2 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall be elected for a four (4) year term in conjunction with the MNBC *Electoral Act*.
 - 6.3 In the event a vacancy in the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall arise due to the resignation, removal, suspension or otherwise of a 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council member, the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall hold a by-election in accordance with the MNBC *Electoral Act*.

MÉTIS NATION NATURAL RESOURCE ACT

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



RATIFIED – SEPTEMBER 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ARTICLE ONE – TITLE

1.0 This Act is cited as “Métis Nation British Columbia - Natural Resource Act.”

ARTICLE TWO – INTERPRETATIONS

2.0 In this Act and subsequent Addendums and Regulations:

- 2.1 **“Act”** means the *MNBC Natural Resource Act*.
- 2.2 **“Addendums”** are Ministerial approved supplements to the *Natural Resource Act* that enables the development of annually renewed, low-level legislation.
- 2.3 **“BCMANR”** means the British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources which is a non-political committee that manages the natural resources on behalf of the MNBC.
- 2.4 **“Captain’s Assembly”** consists of the eight voting regional Captains of the Hunt.
- 2.5 **“Captain of the Hunt”** means a MNBC citizen who has been selected, through the BCMANR Policies and Procedures, and endorsed by the Regional Governance Council of their respective region.
- 2.6 **“Constitution”** means the *Constitution* of the MNBC as amended from time to time.
- 2.7 **“Issuer”** means a person that is delegated the authority by BCMANR to issue licensing, tags and permits.
- 2.8 **“Legislation”** means legislative documents, laws and/or acts including amendments to existing legislative documents, laws and/or acts and, for the purposes of this Act, will include draft or proposed Legislation.
- 2.9 **“MNBC”** means the Métis Nation British Columbia which represents and/or is comprised of the Métis Citizens of British Columbia and which is governed by the provisions of the *Constitution*.

- 2.10 **“Métis Citizen”** as defined by the MNBC Citizenship Act.
- 2.11 **“Minister of Environmental Protection”** means the MNBC Board Member that has been assigned the Environmental Protection and Métis Rights Ministry.
- 2.12 **“Minister of Economic Development and Natural Resources”** means the MNBC Board Member that has been assigned the Natural Resource Ministry.
- 2.13 **“Ministry of Environmental Protection”** means the MNBC Secretariat department that is responsible for all environmental protection regulations and policy, under the authority of the Minister of Environmental Protection (political), Senior Director of Environmental Protection (technical) and BCMANR.
- 2.14 **“Ministry of Economic Development and Natural Resources”** means the MNBC Secretariat department that is responsible for all natural resource issues under the authority of the Minister of Economic Development and Natural Resources (political), Senior Director of Economic Development and Natural Resources (technical) and BCMANR.
- 2.15 **“Parties”** for the purpose of consultation means government, proponents, regulatory agencies and other external entities whose mandate includes Aboriginal consultation.
- 2.16 **“Region”** means a MNBC Region as determined by the Constitution.
- 2.17 **“Regulation”** is the annually renewed provincial and regional rules that manage the Métis harvest.
- 2.18 **“Senate”** means the MNBC Senate.
- 2.19 **“Senior Director of Economic Development and Natural Resources”** means a person that is employed by the MNBC Secretariat and has expertise and experience in the natural resource section.
- 2.20 **“Senior Director of Environmental Protection”** means a person that is employed by the MNBC Secretariat with the requisite expertise and experience in environmental protection.

- 2.21 “Youth” for the purpose of harvesting under the authority of this Act and to provide consistency with existing provincial and federal government legislation (i.e. *B.C. Wildlife Act*) means a Métis Citizen between the ages of 10-18 years of age.

ARTICLE THREE – PURPOSE OF THE ACT

- 3.0 The purpose of this Act is to provide Métis specific legislative authority for the regulated management of all natural resources in British Columbia which are utilized by the Métis Citizens, thus;
- 3.1 Establish natural resource regulation, policy and guidelines by combining both Métis traditional knowledge and western-based science management principles;
- 3.2 Institute sound conservation practices and measures;
- 3.3 Protect the sustenance and cultural needs of the Métis Citizens in British Columbia;
- 3.4 Ensure adequate consultation on all natural resource issues.

ARTICLE FOUR – FINANCES

- 4.0 The financial requirements for MNBC’s Ministry of Environmental Protection shall be satisfied as follows:
- 4.1 Where fiscal resources are available, the MNBC, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the MNBC Financial Policies and Procedures, shall provide financial resources to BCMANR as required for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Act.
- 4.2 Such resources shall be within the means available to the MNBC for such purposes.
- 4.3 The Senior Director of Environmental Protection shall make a formal written request to the MNBC for all expenditures of BCMANR.
- 4.4 The MNBC shall actively pursue financial resources for the functions of BCMANR and the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

- 4.5 The MNBC will be responsible for travel expenses and honorariums for BCMANR while conducting official BCMANR business, pursuant to this Act.

ARTICLE FIVE – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

5.0 In this Act:

- 5.1 BCMANR shall keep written minutes of all meetings, and shall issue these minutes to the Senior Directors and Ministers of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.
- 5.2 All decisions of BCMANR shall be recorded and a report provided to the Citizens at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the MNBC and the Métis Nation Governing Assembly.
- 5.3 The MNBC's Minister responsible for Natural Resources will be required to report all updates to the MNBC Board of the Directors.

ARTICLE SIX – HARVESTING FOR PROFIT AND COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

6.0 In this Act the harvesting of wildlife and fish for profit or commercial purposes;

- 6.1 Is not authorized, and;
- 6.2 Only permits harvesting by Métis Citizens for food, social, ceremonial and traditional purposes.

ARTICLE SEVEN – MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

7.0 Management agreements;

- 7.1 The MNBC Board of Directors may enter into agreements with Canada or British Columbia pertaining to management, perpetuation or rehabilitation of wildlife or fish populations or the ecosystems of which those populations are a part.
- 7.2 The MNBC Board of Directors may enter into agreements with aboriginal nations, non-government organizations and stakeholder groups that pertain or contribute to natural resource management and conservation of fish and wildlife populations and habitats.

- 7.3 The MNBC Board of Directors may enter into agreements with the owners of lands respecting the management of the lands for the purposes mentioned in *Article 3.0*, and such agreements may authorize BCMANR to carry out habitat improvement work, protective measures, stocking programs, fencing, erection of signs, harvesting activities and any other management practice.
- 7.4 The MNBC Board of Directors may enter into agreements, for the purpose of consultation, as per *Article 11.0* of this Act.

ARTICLE EIGHT – MNBC HARVESTING CARDS

8.0 In this Act:

8.1 MNBC Harvesting Cards

- 8.1.1 MNBC Harvesting Cards may be issued to Métis Citizens who submit applications and meet requirements for approval. This Act applies only to those persons who have chosen to harvest under the authority of the Act.
- 8.1.2 A MNBC Citizen cannot harvest a wildlife and fish quota (or bag limit) under multiple licensing authorities (i.e. MNBC Harvesting Card and a Province of British Columbia *Wildlife Act* hunting license).
- 8.1.3 The holder of a MNBC Harvesting Card constitutes acceptance of all terms and conditions for use of the card as outlined in this Act and any subsequent regulations created under the authority of *Article 9.0*.
- 8.1.4 Contravention of terms is an Offence.
- 8.1.5 No person shall contravene the terms or conditions of the person's MNBC Harvesting Card.

8.2 Transfer of MNBC Harvesting Card, validation or tag;

- 8.2.1 Except as provided in the regulations, no MNBC Harvesting Card shall be transferred and no person shall buy, sell, exchange or in anyway be a party to the transfer of a MNBC Harvesting Card, validation or tag, or in any way use or

attempt to use a MNBC Harvesting Card, validation or tag, issued to any other person.

8.3 MNBC Harvesting Cards apply only to those species, areas and times described by regulations developed under the authority of Article 9.0.

8.4 Cancellation of MNBC Harvesting Card in event of error;

8.4.1 BCMANR may cancel any MNBC Harvesting Card where an error has been made from any cause when issuing it, and the holder has no claim for indemnity or compensation with respect to it other than the adjustment or refund of any fee collected.

8.5 MNBC Harvesting Card is to be carried and produced upon demand;

8.5.1 No holder of a MNBC Harvesting Card shall hunt, fish, trap or collect natural resources unless at that time they have a valid MNBC Harvesting Card on their person;

8.5.2 The holder of a MNBC Harvesting Card shall produce the card to any enforcement officer whenever requested.

8.6 MNBC Harvesting Card obtained by misrepresentation;

8.6.1 The holder of a MNBC Harvesting Card obtained by any false or misleading statement made in respect of any information required for the issue of the MNBC Harvesting Card shall be deemed to be the holder of a void MNBC Harvesting Card and the holder will be prosecuted under this Act.

8.7 Refusal of MNBC Harvesting Card;

8.7.1 An issuer of MNBC Harvesting Cards may refuse to issue a MNBC Harvesting Card where the refusal is due to failure to verify MNBC Citizenship for the applicant or,

8.7.2 An issuer of MNBC Harvesting Cards may refuse to issue a MNBC Harvesting



Cared where the refusal is reasonably necessary for the achievement of the purpose and intent of this Act as per Article 3.0.

8.8 Notice of refusal

8.8.1 Where an issuer of MNBC Harvesting Card refuses to issue a MNBC Harvesting Card, BCMANR shall serve notice of the refusal on the application for the MNBC Harvesting Card.

8.9 A person, who has not complied with terms of any BCMANR Captain's Assembly decisions related to offences under the Act, will not be eligible to apply for a MNBC Harvesting Card, unless the offence has been overturned by a successful MNBC Senate appeal.

ARTICLE NINE – REGULATIONS BY BCMANR

9.0 BCMANR will make regulations that are consistent with Article 3.0 and develop regulations based on the principles of existing case law, and whereas;

- a. An agreement (as per Article 7.0) that has been endorsed between the MNBC and a provincial and/or federal government partner, or;
- b. Legislative or political direction has been provided by the Métis Nation Governing Assembly, MNBC Annual General Assembly or a ratified motion of the MNBC Board of Directors, however;
- c. If neither Articles 9.0 a. nor 9.0 b. are present, then provincial and federal government legislation and regulation will be sanctioned.

9.1 BCMANR will make regulations as follows:

- 9.1.1 Respecting threatened species or endangered species;
- 9.1.2 Application for MNBC Harvesting Cards and permits as per Article 8.0;
- 9.1.3 Prescribing the conditions of a MNBC Harvesting Card and conditions that the Issuer may attach to a MNBC Harvesting Card when they issue it to a Métis Citizen;

- 9.1.4 Limiting the number and types of tags and permits that may be held by a person;
- 9.1.5 Prescribing fees;
- 9.1.6 Prescribing the maximum number of a species of wildlife, by sex and age, that a person may kill or possess in a period of time and the circumstances in which a person may kill or possess wildlife;
- 9.1.7 Designating no shooting and/or no harvesting areas;
- 9.1.8 Providing for cancellation or suspension of, periods of ineligibility for and periods of suspension of MNBC Harvesting Cards for specified offences or combinations of offences, and specifying what a second or subsequent offence is, consistent with Article 12.0;
- 9.1.9 Specifying lakes, streams or areas of British Columbia for the purpose of requiring Métis Citizens to hold a MNBC Harvesting Card issued under the authority of this Act to engage in angling in that lake, stream or area for special designated harvests;
- 9.1.10 Respecting how decision for appeal may be supplied for the purposes of Article 13.0;
- 9.1.11 Prohibiting or regulating methods and devices for hunting or taking wildlife and respecting safety in those activities;
- 9.1.12 Providing for the reporting and recording;
- 9.1.13 Requiring wildlife or a part of wildlife to be permanently or temporarily marked or tagged;
- 9.1.14 Requiring that a person who kills wildlife, take that wildlife or a part of it to a place and report to a person specified by BCMANR;



9.2 Without limiting Article 9.1, BCMANR will make regulations as follows:

- 9.2.1 Specifying open seasons or closed seasons, or both, for a sex, age or species of wildlife;
- 9.2.2 Prescribing the hours of the day or night during which the hunting of wildlife is prohibited or allowed;
- 9.2.3 Prescribing restrictions on the manner in which fish caught by angling may be dressed or packed and limits on the amount of fish or fish parts possessed by a person at a place other than at a private residence;
- 9.2.4 Prescribing MNBC Harvesting Cards or permits that must be held to angle for or to catch and retain a designated species of fish or to angle in a designated area of British Columbia, including tidal waters;
- 9.2.5 Prescribing tags that must be attached in the prescribed manner to fish caught by angling;
- 9.2.6 Prescribing an offence under a specified provision of this Act, or a regulation under this Act, as an offence.

9.3 BCMANR, despite anything in this Act, may make regulations respecting the issue of permits.

9.4 Regulations must assure public safety and public health.

9.5 This Act authorizes the creation of a BCMANR Policy and Procedure section pertaining to the process for regulation development.

9.6 All regulation must be approved, via motion, by the BCMANR Captain's Assembly.

ARTICLE TEN – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

10.0 This Act authorizes the development of Environmental Protection Policy.

- 10.1 The Environmental Protection Policy is the responsibility of the MNBC Ministry of Environmental Protection.
- 10.2 BCMANR will be responsible for all Environmental Protection regulations developed under the authority of this Act.
- 10.3 The MNBC Board of Directors has the approval authority for all Environmental Protection Policy.

ARTICLE ELEVEN – CONSULTATION

- 11.0 This Act authorizes the development of an MNBC Consultation Guidelines and supporting procedures.
 - 11.1 The development of MNBC's Consultation Guidelines is the joint responsibility of the MNBC Ministries of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. The policy will be revised from time to time to reflect MNBC's position with respect to consultation within context of current Supreme Court of Canada rulings and associated regulatory requirements as they apply to Métis rights and interests;
 - 11.2 The Consultation Guidelines will include a definition of traditional knowledge, written by the BCMANR Captain's Assembly, to ensure adherence to purpose of this Act in Article 3.0.
 - 11.2.1 Traditional knowledge protocol and procedure in the Consultation Guidelines will be established by the BCMANR Captain's Assembly.
 - 11.3 The MNBC Board of Directors has the approval authority for all Consultation Guidelines.
 - 11.4 The implementation of the Consultation Guidelines is the joint responsibility of the Senior Directors of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, under the direction and guidance of the respective MNBC Ministers, where relevant.
 - 11.5 Consultation Guidelines will address the following principles;
 - 11.5.1 Promote the adherence of government, proponent and regulatory agencies to



the implementation of Aboriginal consultation in a manner that respects and addresses the unique culture, heritage by:

- 11.5.1.1 Increasing awareness of the Métis in British Columbia including the cultural, heritage and land use issues of concern to Métis;
- 11.5.1.2 Strive to ensure the timely and effective avoidance, mitigation, accommodation and/or compensation of potentially adverse impacts to Métis rights and interests in keeping with current MNBC mandates related to consultation;

11.5.2 The MNBC Ministry of Economic Development and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Environmental Protection will endeavor to keep apprised of and inform the MNBC's Board of Directors of current case law, regulatory requirements, government policies and other matters that may influence Métis rights and interests and have bearing on the MNBC's Consultation Guidelines;

11.5.3 Establish appropriate, efficient practices that will fulfill MNBC consultation principles in accordance with MNBC Board direction for all natural resource matters.

11.5.4 Promote and facilitate the protection of traditional land use locations and other historical resources of significance to Métis within British Columbia;

11.5.5 Guide Parties in fulfilling their consultation duties and objectives in a spirit of reconciliation and transparency and will meet each party's goal of fairness and certainty; and,

11.5.6 Guide MNBC's decision-making processes regarding consultation as it relates to all natural resource matters including resource development and land management practices.

11.6 Consultation Guidelines will require the MNBC to;

11.6.1 Represent and advocate for consultation of British Columbia Métis Citizens with governments, regulators, proponents and other relevant agencies;

- 11.6.2 Provide direction and support to the Chartered Métis Communities;
- 11.6.3 Work with BCMANR to ensure traditional and contemporary land use information is employed to support consultation where such information is available; or,
 - 11.6.3.1 If absent, advocate for resources to compliment the consultation project with adequate traditional and contemporary land use information.
- 11.6.4 Provide information to government and industry to facilitate consultation activities;
- 11.6.5 Manage and determine the adequacy of consultation activities within the context of MNBC consultation policies, legal precedents and regulatory requirements;
- 11.6.6 Report to the Chartered Métis Communities, government, regulators, proponents and other relevant agencies regarding decisions concerning consultation as related to their respective mandates; and,
- 11.6.7 Consider any other issue or take any other action the MNBC deems necessary to ensure consultation adequately protects the rights and interests of British Columbia Métis Citizens.

ARTICLE TWELVE – COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- 12.0 This Act authorizes the BCMANR Captain's Assembly to function in the following compliance and enforcement capacities;
 - 12.1 To operate in the capacity of the initial judiciary in relation to offences against this Act or any regulations empowered by this Act.
 - 12.2 Powers available to the Captain's Assembly for offences against this Act are;
 - a) Suspension of a MNBC Harvesting Card for a period not to exceed two years, offences greater than two years are considered an apprehension.
 - b) Apprehension of a MNBC Harvesting Card for a period not to exceed five years. If the apprehension is recommended by the Captain's Assembly to be greater than five years; the MNBC Minister of Environmental Protection Resources must sanction the apprehension.



- c) Community service hours
 - d) Reparations or mitigated measures
- 12.3 Determine the policies and procedures for the compliance and enforcement authorities assigned under this Act.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN – APPEAL MECHANISM

- 13.0 The MNBC Senate has the authority to hear appeals for;
 - 13.1 Any decisions established under the authority of this Act, or;
 - 13.2 Any offences established by the BCMANR Captain's Assembly under the authority of Article 12.0 of this Act.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN – BCMANR NATURAL RESOURCE FUND

- 14.0 BCMANR Natural Resource fund is established to fund projects and activities related to natural resource management, protection, enhancement, education and legal challenges and that a BCMANR Natural Resource fund policy is developed to ensure management of the fund by BCMANR is strategic, effective and transparent.

MÉTIS NATION SENATE ACT

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



RATIFIED – SEPTEMBER 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ARTICLE ONE - TITLE

1.0 This Act may be cited as “The Métis Nation British Columbia Senate Act”

ARTICLE TWO - INTERPRETATION

2.0 In this Act:

- 2.1. **“Act”** means the *Métis Nation British Columbia Senate Act*.
- 2.2 **“Constitution”** means the Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia (“MNBC”) as amended from time to time.
- 2.3 **“Legislation”** means legislative documents, laws and/or acts including amendments to existing legislative documents, laws and/or acts and, for the purposes of this Act, will include draft or proposed Legislation.
- 2.4 **“Métis Nation British Columbia”** means the organization which represents and/or is comprised of the Métis Citizens of British Columbia and which are governed by the provisions of the Constitution.
- 2.5 **“Métis Nation Governing Assembly”** (MNGA) means the legislative authority of the Métis Nation British Columbia, as set out in the Constitution.
- 2.6 **“Ordinarily Resident”** means the Region to which the person is registered as a member and the Region of the member’s fixed home address to which whenever they are absent they have the intention of returning.
- 2.7 **“Region”** means Region as determined by the Constitution.
- 2.8 **“Registrar”** means the individual who fulfils the office of Registrar as defined in the *Citizenship Act*.
- 2.9 **“Senate”** means the Métis Nation British Columbia Senate.
- 2.10 **“Senator”** means a member of the Métis Nation British Columbia Senate.

ARTICLE THREE - MANDATE AND POWERS OF THE SENATE

3.0 The Senate shall:

- 3.1 Act as the judicial arm of the Métis Nation British Columbia in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution;
- 3.2 Consist of seven (7) Senators, one Senator per Region; and
- 3.3 Determine and abide by guidelines for protocol, policy and procedure and to provide to the MNBC a written copy of those guidelines (the “Protocol Guidelines”).
- 3.4 A Senator shall not be subject to any civil action, suit of prosecution as a result of any things done or not done in relations to the performance of their duties as Senators.

ARTICLE FOUR - QUALIFICATIONS FOR A SENATOR

4.0 A person is eligible for appointment to the Senate if they:

- 4.1 Are a Citizen of the Métis Nation British Columbia;
- 4.2 Are appointed by the Regional Governance Council by a motion at a Regional meeting;
- 4.3 Are ordinarily resident in the Region from which they were appointed;
- 4.4 Are non-partisan and non-political, including non-affiliation except as members only of Federal, Provincial and Métis organizations;
- 4.5 Are at least fifty-five (55) years of age; and
- 4.6 They have not been convicted of a criminal offence carrying a penalty of two (2) years or greater.
- 4.7 They are registered with the Métis Nation British Columbia Central Registry in accordance with the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act.

ARTICLE FIVE - APPOINTMENT AND RATIFICATION OF SENATORS

- 5.0 Notice of Senate appointments shall be forwarded to the MNBC and the Senate Chairperson, when appointed, by the official charged with recording the minutes of the meeting at which the appointment was made. The submission will include a copy of the minutes of the meeting, indicating the motion and shall be accompanied by a resume and biography of the appointed Senator.
- 5.1 A call for application for Senators will be issued by the MNBC 120 days prior to the Senators term.
- 5.2 The application package must contain:
- a) Biography of the Applicant.
 - b) Proof of age.
 - c) Copy of the MNBC Provincial Métis Citizens card.
 - d) A Criminal Record Check in accordance with the MNBC Constitution and Senate Act.
 - e) Nomination in writing by a Métis Citizen that holds a MNBC Provincial Métis Citizens card.
 - f) Application package must be submitted to the MNBC Regional Director 30 days prior to the end of the Senator's term.
- 5.3 The Regional Governance Council shall review the Applicant's submissions and will reject applications that do not contain the items listed in 5.2.
- 5.4 All or any candidates shall not participate in the Regional Governance Council meeting or when Senator deliberations are being carried out.
- 5.5 The Regional Governance Council will deliberate until the appointment of their Regional Senator is reached by simple majority.
- 5.6 The successful Applicant will upon notification of their appointment, immediately resign any and all positions held within the MNBC, MNGA, Community or subsidiary Board, Commission or Committee, Métis Women of British Columbia, or the Métis Youth of British Columbia.

ARTICLE SIX - TERM AND REMOVAL OF OFFICE

6.0 In this Act:

- 6.1 The term of office for a Senator shall be four (4) years;
- 6.2 Notwithstanding Article 6.1, the term of office of a Senator shall terminate if a Senator is:
 - a) Disqualified for violating any part of this Act; or
 - b) Is unable to fulfill their duties on a permanent basis.
- 6.3 A Senator shall be removed or suspended from office by the Senate:
 - a) For being convicted of an indictable offence and all appeals are exhausted;
 - b) If they take up residency outside of the Province of British Columbia;
 - c) For actions unbecoming the stature of a Senator while holding office;
 - d) By voluntarily resigning in writing to the Chairperson of the Senate;
- 6.4 A Senator shall take a leave of absence from the office of the Senate upon being charged with an indictable offence and pending final determination of the allegations forming the basis for the charge;
- 6.5 A Senator may be suspended by a seventy five percent (75%) majority of the Senate. The suspension may be with or without remuneration at the sole discretion of the Senate and shall be effective immediately upon that Senator being notified of their suspension;
- 6.6 A Senator may appeal their suspension to the MNGA by written notice to the MNGA within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of his suspension.

ARTICLE SEVEN – GUIDELINES FOR PROTOCOL, CODE OF ETHICS, STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

- 7.0 Within four (4) months of the final ratification of this Act, the Senate shall prepare, compile and deliver to the MNGA a copy of guidelines, in writing, setting out the Protocol, Code of Ethics and Standard of Conduct pursuant to which the Senate shall conduct its affairs and manage and administer the duties and functions of the Senate in accordance with this Act and the Senator's fiduciary duty to the MNGA, the MNBC and Métis Citizens.

ARTICLE EIGHT - COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

8.0 Pursuant to this Act the Senate shall establish any such committees as are required by the Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution or Legislation and as required to carry out the following duties:

- a) Mediation;
- b) Citizenship and Central Registry Appeals;
- c) Election Appeals;
- d) Regional and Community Disputes;
- e) Ceremonial Activities and Exchanges;
- f) Conducting Opening / Closing Prayers;
- g) Directing Swearing-In Ceremonies and Oaths;
- h) Presenting Awards and Gifts of Recognition where applicable;
- i) Displaying Métis Flags and Sashes; and
- j) Natural Resources Appeals;

8.1 Each committee established pursuant to Article 8.1 shall appoint an individual from among its members to serve as the spokesperson for that committee.

ARTICLE NINE - APPEALS

9.0 Members of the Senate conducting appeals shall:

- a) Hear and provide written decisions on all matters and appeals properly before the Senate;
- b) Have such powers, rights and privileges as may be necessary in regards to attendance, swearing in and examination of witnesses, the production and inspection of documents, the enforcement of its orders and other matters necessary or proper for the due exercise of its jurisdiction.
- c) The Senate shall determine the tribunal or committees required for the jurisdictions supplied under Article 8.0 of this Act.
- d) Consider and determine issues with a majority of members in attendance; and
- e) May appoint an individual(s) to inquire into and report on any matter before making a decision on it.

9.1 In all matters concerning appeals, be bound by the rules of natural justice;

9.2 Where a time frame to submit an appeal is not otherwise legislated, any appeal by a MNBC Citizen must be made within sixty (60) days of the event.

9.2.1. The Senate will consider an application for an extension of time to appeal.

9.3 All decisions of the Senate must be in writing and sealed, then forwarded to the affected parties within thirty (30) days of its decision.

9.4 The decisions of the Senate shall be in writing and forwarded to the Métis Nation British Columbia for its review and such action as necessary by the Métis Nation British Columbia.

ARTICLE TEN - QUORUM AND VOTING

10.0 To conduct official Senate business:

10.1 A simple majority of the Senators will constitute a quorum for a full Senate sitting and/or a simple majority of the composition of a Senate committee and/or tribunal.

10.2 Decisions made by a quorum of the Senate shall be deemed to be a decision of the Senate.

ARTICLE ELEVEN - FINANCES

11.0 The Financial requirements for the institution and operation Senate shall be satisfied as follows:

11.1 Where fiscal resources are available, the MNBC, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the MNBC Financial Policies and Procedures, shall provide financial resources to the Senate as required for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

11.2 Such resources shall be within the means available to the MNBC for such purposes.

11.3 The Chairperson of the Senate shall make formal written request to the MNBC for all expenditures of the Senate.

11.4 The MNBC shall actively pursue fiscal resources for the functions of the Senate.

- 11.5 The MNBC will be responsible for travel expenses and honorariums for the Senate while conducting official Senate business, pursuant to this Act.
- 11.6 In the absence of timely Senate resources, the Senate will be provided full consideration for required resources on a case-by-case basis through mutual consultation between the Senate and MNBC.

ARTICLE TWELVE - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

- 12.0 In this Act:
- 12.1 The Senate shall keep written minutes of all meetings and shall issue such reports to those persons or individuals as may be required.
- 12.2 All decisions of the Senate shall be recorded and a report and posted on the MNBC website for general Citizenship to view.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN – CLERK OF THE SENATE

- 13.0 The Clerk of the Senate shall:
- 13.1 Operate independent of MNBC;
- 13.2 Operate under the authority and direction of the MNBC Senate;
- 13.3 Shall be remunerated by the MNBC;
- 13.4 Shall hold no other seat as MNGA/AGM Clerk or administrator/staff personnel within MNBC.



