



MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY
held March 4-6, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES

Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) held March 4-6, 2022 via videoconference

OFFICIAL DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Lissa Smith, President
Kate Elliott, Métis Women BC Chair
Shaughn Davoren, Métis Youth BC Chair
Patrick Harriott, Region 1 Regional Director (Vancouver Island and Powell River) and Treasurer
Louis De Jaeger, Region 2 Regional Director (Lower Mainland) and Acting Vice-President
Dean Gladue, Region 3 Regional Director (Thompson Okanagan)
Debra Fisher, Region 4 Regional Director (Kootenays)
Raynie Gervais, Region 5 Regional Director (North Central)
Susie Hooper, Region 6 Regional Director (Northwest) and Acting Secretary
Paulette Flamond, Region 7 Regional Director (Northeast)

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Region 1 – Vancouver Island

Caitlin Bird, President, The Métis Nation of Greater Victoria Association
Joy Bremner, President, Mid Island Métis Nation
Lauren Dean, President, Miki'siw Métis Association
June Graham, President, Alberni Clayoquot Métis Association
Shawn James, Vice-President, Métis Nation Powell River
Charlotte Lever, Vice President, North Island Métis Association
Richard Lewis, President, Cowichan Valley Métis Association

Region 2 – Lower Mainland

Lee Fraser, President, Surrey/Delta Métis Association (joined on Day 2)
Ryan Gervais, Vice President, Chilliwack Métis Association
Ken Isbister, Vice President, North Fraser Métis Association
Kelly Sears, President, Waceyá Métis Society
Lisa Shepherd, Vice President, Golden Ears Métis Society
Pixie Wells, President, Fraser Valley Métis Society

Region 3 – Thompson Okanagan

David Allard, President, Salmon Arm Métis Association
Cheryl Dodman, President, Kelowna Métis Association
Betty Ann McDonnell, President, Nicola Valley and District Métis Society
Cindy Novakowsky, Vice President, Salmon Arm Métis Association
Trish Plant, President, Two Rivers Métis Society
Joanne Richardson, President, South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association

Daina Shaw, President, Boundary Métis Community Association
Ed Vermette, Vice-President, Vermillion Forks Métis Society

Region 4 – Kootenays

Don Courson, President, West Kootenay Métis Society
Monica Fisher, President, Columbia Valley Métis Association
Alex Ibbotson, President, Rocky Mountain Métis Association
Travis Jobin, President, Métis Nation Columbia River Society
Myrtle Servatius, President, Kootenay South Métis Society

Region 5 – North Central

Tony Goulet, President, North Cariboo Métis Association
Kelly Roberts, President, Prince George Métis Community Association
Marlene Swears, President, The Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association

Region 6 – Northwest

Bonnie Merlo, President, Tri-Rivers Métis Association
Darcie Petuh, President, Northwest BC Métis Association
Joy Sundin, President, Prince Rupert and District Métis Society

Region 7 – Northeast

Jacqueline Alderking, President, Fort St. John Métis Society

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Peltier, MNGA Speaker
Chris Gall, MNGA Clerk
John Bieker, MNGA Deputy Clerk
Daniel Fontaine, MNBC Chief Executive Officer
Kamron Bajwa, Manager of Intergovernmental Relations

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Christel Guenette, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

1. OPENING PRAYERS

Senators Gladue and Hoogendoorn provided an Opening Prayer earlier in the day, prior to the morning roundtable session.

2. ANTHEMS

O Canada and the Métis Ballad were provided through a video presentation.

3. OPENING REMARKS

Lissa Smith, President, welcomed delegates to the MNGA and provided an overview of activities that benefitted MNBC Citizens during the past year, including:

- Approval of \$70,000 for Regional Governance Council (RGC) meetings
- Commitment of \$70,000 in COVID-19 funding to Chartered Communities to provide cellphones with a preloaded two-year plan including data and voicemail
- Reforms to the Ministry of Citizenship, which saw an increase in applications processed per month and decreased wait times by six months

- Funding of 1,500 trainees in 2021
- Review of the Ministry of Health programs to ensure Citizens receive critical programs and services, including the mitigation of costs associated with childcare expenses
- Minimal references to Métis in the recent 2022 Provincial Budget; \$12 million was announced to establish a *Declaration Act* Secretariat to increase capacity of public servants to interact with Indigenous governments
 - No funding was allocated to increase the capacity of Indigenous governments to interact with Victoria, which was identified as a critical need
 - MNBC continues to advocate for resources to ensure it is a full partner in the process
 - While a distinctions-based approach was approved by the Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, it was ignored in the budget
- Signing of a new letter of intent (LOI) between MNBC and the Province, which proposed a new government approach to Métis relations and a partnership that respected Métis self-determination
- Tabling of a \$100 million budget for 2022/2023 to support programs and services that aimed to close the gap for the quality of life for Métis
- Role of MNBC with the Métis National Council (MNC); the new administration was committed to openness, transparency and accountability.

4. ROLL CALL – QUORUM ANNOUNCED

MNGA Clerk Chris Gall read aloud the names of delegates and welcomed them to verbally indicate their presence. After concluding the Roll Call, it was confirmed that 36 official voting delegates were in attendance, which met quorum.

5. CALL TO ORDER

The Official Business of the 2022 MNGA scheduled March 4-6, 2022, was called to order on March 4, 2022, at approximately 2:05 p.m.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2022 MNGA DRAFT AGENDA

Related materials distributed in the MNGA 2022 Agenda package: Draft Agenda of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 4-6, 2022

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Lauren Dean) and SECONDED (Pixie Wells)

That the Agenda for the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 4-6, 2022, be accepted as presented.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Lauren Dean) and SECONDED (Monica Fisher)

That the main resolution be amended to strike “as presented” and insert “with the addition of Item 7, Livestreaming at MNGAs”.

Discussion on the Amendment to the Draft Agenda

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Feedback received by leadership and Elders through the livestream to those attending the MNGA
- Disappointment of Citizens regarding the inability to watch the MNGA livestream
- Value of informed Citizens

- Need for further clarification on the rationale for not livestreaming the MNGA
- Ability for Citizens to attend in-person MNGAs and observe the governance process.

Question on the Amendment to the Main Resolution

Question was called on the amendment to the main resolution. Voting was conducted via the poll function. MNGA Clerk Gall announced the results of the poll. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the amendment was:

CARRIED (MNGA2202-01)

(35 in favor, none opposed, one delegate abstained from the vote)

Main Resolution as Amended

Voting was conducted via the poll function to accept the main resolution as amended, and it was:

CARRIED (MNGA 2202-02)

(35 in favor, none opposed, one delegate abstained from the vote)

7. RESOLUTION – LIVESTREAMING AT MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLIES

It was MOVED (Lauren Dean) and SECONDED (Monica Fisher)

WHEREAS

- A. It is essential for the governance process to be available to our Citizens;
- B. Community leadership values the feedback of our community members during and throughout the Governing Assembly to inform decision making;
- C. It is within the power of the MNGA to determine how our assemblies are conducted; and
- D. Pursuant to article 11.5 of the MNGA Act, resolutions of an urgent and pressing nature that may have implications for the Métis Nation if not dealt with on an urgent basis by the MNGA, may be added to the Order Paper by the Clerk if at least 50% plus one of the MNGA members in attendance agree.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Effective immediately, all Métis Nation Governing Assemblies be livestreamed.

Discussion on the Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Building capacity and mentorship opportunities for Citizens
- Ability for Elders and Citizens to ask questions to be brought forward
- Previous livestreaming statistics, which informed the decision to not livestream the 2022 MNGA
- Increasing transparency to MNBC Citizens.

Question on the Resolution

Question was called on the resolution. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the resolution was:

CARRIED (MNGA2202-03)

(36 in favor, none opposed, one delegate abstained from the vote)

8. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MNGA STANDING RULES

MNGA Clerk Gall read aloud the MNGA Standing Rules, which were accepted as presented.

9. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MNGA MINUTES

9.1 Minutes from the 2021 MNGA

Related materials distributed in the MNGA 2022 Agenda package: Draft Minutes of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly held May 7-8, 2021.

It was MOVED (Susie Hooper) and SECONDED (Raynie Gervais)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Métis Nation Governing Assembly held May 7-8, 2021 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2202-04)

9.2 Minutes from the 2021 Special MNGA

Related materials distributed in the MNGA 2022 Agenda package: Draft Minutes of the Special Métis Nation Governing Assembly held September 26, 2021

It was MOVED (Lissa Smith) and SECONDED (Monica Fisher)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2021 Special Métis Nation Governing Assembly held September 26, 2021 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2202-05)

10. ACCEPTANCE OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Related materials distributed in the MNGA 2022 Agenda package: MNGA Reports 2022, Virtual Annual General Meeting, March 4-6, 2022

It was MOVED (Cheryl Dodman) and SECONDED (Betty Ann McDonnell)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly receive for information the *MNGA Reports 2022, Virtual Annual General Meeting, March 4-6, 2022*, and the written reports therein.

Discussion on the Resolution

During discussion, it was noted the agenda package was not received in sufficient time to review in advance of the MNGA.

Question on the Resolution

Question was called on the resolution. Voting was conducted via the poll function. MNGA Clerk Gall announced the results of the poll. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the resolution was:

CARRIED (MNGA2202-06)

(23 delegate in favor, six opposed, seven delegates abstained from the vote)

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 3:07 p.m. and reconvened at 3:17 p.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

MNGA Clerk Gall confirmed that there was a quorum of delegates present, with 35 official voting delegates in attendance.

11. REPORTS

11.1 Electoral Act Committee Report

Tony Goulet, Region 5 Representative, *Electoral Act* Committee, reviewed a presentation titled "*Electoral Act* Committee – Roadmap for 2022", and highlighted the following:

- History and composition of the Committee
- Committee Terms of Reference and timeline for legislative changes to be in full effect prior to the 2024 General Election
- Main lenses/angles to consider within the legislation, including Citizens, candidates, Chief Electoral Officer and MNBC
- 2022 Workplan, including specific activities, deliverables, and estimated completion timelines.

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Use of data from previous elections to understand the demographics of Citizens who voted, specifically by region and age, and their means of voting (electronic or mail-in ballots)
- Ability to target communications to encourage Citizens to vote in future elections
- Providing voting assistance to Elders.

Delegates were encouraged to forward further questions or concerns regarding the *Electoral Act* to the Committee. It was agreed to post the names of the *Electoral Act* Committee on MNBC's website.

11.2 Chief Executive Officer/Deputy Minister Report

CEO Daniel Fontaine reviewed a presentation titled "MNBC 2021 – A Year in Review", which provided details on MNBC monthly activities throughout MNBC.

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Including a communication plan within MNBC's workplan; Chartered Community leadership is often surprised when new initiatives are rolled out
 - Efforts are ongoing within MNBC to disseminate information to all Chartered Communities
 - Suggestions were made to draft a weekly newsletter to circulate current information and inform of upcoming programs and services
- Difficulties experienced by many individuals in accessing online applications due to internet instability within remote regions
- Budgetary submission of \$4 million for funds to be transferred to Chartered Communities to support administrative operations
- Efforts to draft a Métis Nation Equity and Reconciliation Agreement with the Province
- Continued delays in processing harvester card renewals and new membership applications
 - The Central Registry continues to slowly improve processes and timeframes in processing applications; applications were processed in the order in which they were received
- Need for ongoing funding for regional health coordinators
 - Contracts terminating at the end of March 2022 were being extended
- Drafting Métis content for school districts to integrate within classrooms
- Status of the 2020 MNGA Resolution #5 regarding the *Citizenship Act* and timelines for applications
- Publishing department heads for leaders to know who to contact with specific concerns
- Perceived lack of respect and understanding by non-Métis staff in interactions with MNBC Citizens
 - MNBC makes every effort to hire qualified Métis Citizens; however, Métis applicants are not received for many positions

- The CEO would work with human resources staff to develop a robust training system that includes cultural awareness and increased exposure to Elders
- Focusing on current programming rather than continuing to develop new programs
- Embedding harvester card renewal within the Citizenship renewal process
- Discrepancies occurring within MNBC financial management processes
- Potential improvements being made to communication processes, including website updates, Chartered Community/President portal, etc.

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 4-6, 2022 adjourned on Day One – March 4, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. after setting the time to reconvene on Day Two – March 5, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

<h2>DAY TWO – MARCH 5, 2022</h2>

ASSEMBLY RECONVENED – CALL TO ORDER

The Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 4-6, 2022 reconvened on Day Two – March 5, 2022 at 8:35 a.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

MNGA Clerk Gall confirmed there was a quorum of delegates present, with 33 official voting delegates in attendance.

12. MÉTIS FINANCIAL CORPORATION OF BC REPORT

Paul Ricard, Chair, Métis Financial Corporation of BC (MFCBC), provided an update on the MFCBC, and offered the following comments:

- The Board of Directors for the MFCBC was appointed in June 2017, and consists of two directors from the MNBC Board and three Directors at Large
- MFCBC consulted with the Métis Nation of Ontario’s Métis Voyageur Development Fund in its creation, including redrafting its policies and procedures, rules, and bylaws to BC standards
- A policy was adopted to fund all MFCBC applicant’s business plans
- In 2017, Evan Salter was hired as CEO from a pool of 36 candidates
- MFCBC opened its doors August 1, 2018 to ensure funding was available to Métis entrepreneurs.

Evan Salter, CEO, MFCBC, reviewed a presentation titled “MFCBC 2022 Update”, and highlighted the following:

- Mandate, mission and vision of the MFCBC
- Creation of the MFCBC
- MFCBC strategic priorities, including:
 - Strategic Priority 1 – grow the organization
 - Strategic Priority 2 – secure stable funding
 - Strategic Priority 3 – client services and success
 - Strategic Priority 4 – effective working relationships
 - Strategic Priority 5 – develop the MFCBC brand
- Building the MFCBC brand, which grew as a result of delivering numerous COVID-19 programs, becoming the fastest growing Aboriginal Financial Institution (AFI) in Canada

- MFCBC support by region
- Current MFCBC programming included business plan support, traditional loan and grant funding, micro-business, tourism and community COVID-19 grants, and small, medium and new business COVID-19 grants
- Upcoming MFCBC programming, including the Métis women’s entrepreneurship program, which offered micro-loans to female Métis entrepreneurs.

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Eligibility of every Métis community for COVID-19 grants
- Available programs to purchase businesses
- Opportunities created for Métis entrepreneurs to access funding through Métis AFIs.

13. RESOLUTIONS

13.1 Resolution A – Surrey/Delta Community Acceptance

It was MOVED (Ryan Gervais) and SECONDED (Raynie Gervais)

WHEREAS:

- A. Article 56.1 of the MNBC *Constitution* provides for a Métis Community meeting certain requirements to seek interim Chartered designation, if they have at least 25 members who are Métis Citizens, which is required for full Chartered Community status;

56.1. 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.
- B. The Surrey/Delta Métis Association is legally registered with the BC Registrar of Societies, and now has more than 25 members, who are MNBC Citizens;
- C. Pursuant to Article 57 of the *Constitution*, the Surrey/Delta Métis Association has committed to enter into a Community Governance Charter with MNBC; and
- D. Pursuant to Article 55.1 of the *Constitution*, communities seeking any chartered designation shall require written approval by motion of seventy-five percent (75%) of the Applicable Regional Governance Council (RGC) members, and such motion be submitted to the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) for final ratification; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly accepts the application by Surrey/Delta Métis Association to enter the Métis Nation British Columbia as a Full Chartered Community; and
- B. The geographic boundaries of the Surrey/Delta Métis Association shall include the municipalities of Delta and Surrey.

Discussion on the Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Previous association representing Métis Citizens in Surrey/Delta, which voted to leave the MNBC

- Process for informing MNBC Citizens in the Surrey/Delta region of the transition to the new association
 - As these Citizens were already MNBC Citizens, they were not required to reapply to MNBC
- Confirmation that the threshold to become a Chartered Community was met as outlined in MNBC's Constitution
- Intention for the Surrey/Delta Métis Association to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 19, 2022.

Question on the Resolution

Question was called on the resolution. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the resolution was:

CARRIED (MNGA2202-07)

(36 in favor, one opposed, one delegate abstained from the vote)

The Surrey/Delta Métis Association was welcomed to the MNBC. It was noted that Lee Fraser would serve as President and Anthony Krilow as Vice President.

13.2 Resolution #1 – Housekeeping Terminology

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Lissa Smith) and SECONDED (Patrick Harriott)

WHEREAS:

- A. Legislative provisions require vigilant review to ensure that they are correctly stated; and
- B. In the event an error or inconsistency is discovered the error must be rectified as a housekeeping matter.

BE IT RESOLVED AS A HOUSEKEEPING MATTER THAT:

The current references in MNBC legislation to “Fifty percent (50%) plus one”, or “Fifty (50) per cent plus one”, be changed to the correct phrase “simple majority” as follows:

- A. In Article 33 of the *Constitution*, strike “Fifty (50) per cent plus one” and insert “A simple majority”, so it shall read:

“A *simple majority* of the Members of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly constitutes a quorum. However quorum must include a majority of the MNBC Board of Directors.”

- B. In Article 4.1 of the *MNGA Act*, strike “Fifty percent (50%) plus one” and insert “A simple majority”, so it shall read:

“A *simple majority* 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;”

- C. In Article 11.5 (a) of the *MNGA Act*, strike “50% plus one” and insert “a simple majority”, so it shall read:

“Resolutions 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 Order Paper by the Clerk, if at least a *simple majority* of the MNGA members in attendance agree.”

Discussion on the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Need for a definition for “simple majority”, which could be open to interpretation and may reduce the number of votes required to create quorum, changing the way the MNGA functioned
 - The word “simple” was not required as “majority” implied more than 50%
- Identification of quorum within the *Constitution*, ensuring that a majority of the MNGA would be present
- Concern that delegates experiencing technical difficulties may be excluded from the process
- Consistency throughout all MNBC legislation.

Vote to Determine Whether the Resolution was a Housekeeping Matter

A vote was conducted via the poll function on whether the main resolution was a housekeeping matter, requiring a higher threshold. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the main resolution was deemed to not be a housekeeping matter.

(12 in favor, 26 opposed, no abstentions)

Amendment to the Main Resolution

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

That the main resolution be amended to replace “*simple majority*” with “*majority*”; and to add the following to the end of the resolution:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

A. The current references in MNBC legislation to “simple majority” be changed to “majority”

Discussion on the Amendment to the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding the importance of consistency in language throughout all MNBC legislation.

Question on the Amendment to the Main Resolution

Question was called on the amendment to the main resolution. Voting was conducted via the poll function. MNGA Clerk Gall announced the results of the poll. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the amendment to the main resolution was:

CARRIED (MNGA 2202-07)

(24 in favor, 13 opposed, two delegates abstained from the vote)

Discussion on the Main Resolution as Amended

During discussion, concerns were expressed regarding potential exclusion of MNGA delegates should the term “majority” not be defined within legislation.

Question on the Main Resolution as Amended

Question was called on the main resolution as amended. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. It was noted that 75%, or 30 delegates, were required to vote in favour for the main resolution as amended to pass. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the main resolution as amended was:

DEFEATED

(25 in favor 12 opposed, two delegates abstained from the vote)

13.3 Resolution #2 – Kaniikaniit

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Betty Ann McDonnell) and SECONDED (Monica Fisher)

WHEREAS:

- A. It is fundamental to who we are as Métis people to have our language and culture represented in everything we do, and
- B. How we name the representatives of our Citizens should be a reflection of who we are as Métis people.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Métis Nation British Columbia Chartered Community leaders, formally known as Presidents, will now be referred to as Kaniikaniit (Canee-Caneat) which means Leader in Michif.

Discussion on the Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Use of Michif in reference to Métis leaders rather than use of “President”, which was a colonial term
- Communities determining how to refer to its elected leaders, acknowledging the various dialects throughout BC
- Support to use the Michif language in all arenas.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Caitlin Bird) and SECONDED (Betty Ann McDonnell)

That “BE IT RESOLVED”, Article A, of the Main Resolution be amended by inserting “*in a variety*” following “*which means Leader*”, and inserting “*or another word in our Michif languages, as chosen by our Communities*” following “*of Michif*”.

Discussion on the Amendment to the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Support to encourage use of the Michif language, and its various dialects, in all communities
- Discretion of elected leaders in how they refer to themselves in public forums.

Motion to Refer the Resolution

It was MOVED (Tony Goulet) and SECONDED (Marlene Swears)

THAT Resolution #2 – Kaniikaniit, be referred to committee, consisting of one Citizen appointee per Region, as determined by the respective Regional Governance Councils; and

This committee review the resolution and provide a recommendation to the 2023 MNGA.

Discussion on the Motion to Refer the Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Following the advice of Elders, who advised of the need to be respectful of individual languages

- Creating space for communities to have fulsome discussion and provide clarity on how to use Michif in reference to leaders
- Need for further developing Michif in communities, which could be flushed out in committee.

It was agreed to defer further discussion on the Motion to Refer the Resolution to later in the meeting, following Item 14.

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 11:04 a.m. and reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

MNGA Clerk Gall confirmed there was a quorum of delegates present, with 39 official voting delegates in attendance.

14. DISCUSSION ON MNGA/AGM ANTHEM

Patrick Harriott, Region 1 Director, commented on the need to have a Métis anthem that better reflected being Métis in BC.

A submission was received by Travis Jobin, who received a grant to record five songs, including a potential anthem for the Métis Nation. The song, “Métis Rising” reflected the historic Métis Nation up to modern times depicting the Métis as a vibrant society. A recording of the song was played for the Assembly.

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Pride in being Métis and where we come from
- Impact of the line “I am not half, I am whole”; it resonates to generations often referred to as “Halfbreeds”
- Gathering input from Elders on the MNBC anthem
- Including Michif within the anthem
- Calling for additional contributions from the broader MNBC community
- Setting the tone for the future.

13. RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

13.3 Resolution #2 – Kaniikaniit continued

Continued Discussion on the Motion to Refer

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Not prioritizing one Michif dialect over another
- Role of the Committee to forward options for each community to adopt a particular word for its leader.

Question on the Motion to Refer

Question was called on the motion to refer. Voting was conducted via the poll function. MNGA Clerk Gall announced the results of the poll. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the motion was:

DEFEATED

(17 in favor, 21 opposed, one delegate abstained from the vote)

Discussion on the Amendment to the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Honouring all languages and dialects for the word “leader”
- Ensuring the Michif language remains alive for future generations
- Providing freedom to elected leaders to choose how they wished to be referred
- Engaging communities to gather feedback on how to refer to leaders.

Question on the Amendment to the Main Resolution

Question was called on the amendment to the main resolution. Voting was conducted via the poll function. MNGA Clerk Gall announced the results of the poll. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the amendment to the main resolution was:

CARRIED (MNGA 2202-08)

(19 in favor, 15 opposed, five delegates abstained from the vote)

Question on the Main Resolution as Amended

Question was called on the main resolution as amended. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the main resolution as amended was:

DEFEATED

(14 in favor, 23 opposed, two delegates abstained from the vote)

13.4 Resolution #3 – Citizenship Act

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Susie Hooper)

WHEREAS:

- A. It is essential to the integrity of the MNBC Registry that all Citizens meet the criteria for registration.
- B. It is good practice to review Citizenship files to ensure that no factual errors, omissions, or a change in eligibility after acceptance has occurred by seeking Status under the Indian Act.
- C. The Registrar must have all the tools necessary to maintain the MNBC Registry in good order.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The MNBC *Citizenship Act* be amended as follows:

Strike the current Article 2.6 and replace with:

"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;

Insert the following at the end of Article Five:

Article Six – Removal from Registry due to Ineligibility

- 6.1 If, due to information found during an audit or review, a person on the Central Registry is found to be ineligible for Métis Citizenship:
- a) The Registrar 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 thirty (30) days of the review notice being sent by the Registrar. This time frame can be extended, by request of the Citizen, by a further sixty (60) days.
 - (i) Extension requests are granted solely at the discretion of the Registrar.
- 6.2 If the Registrar 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 Registrar 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 Registrar’s decision to the Senate, within sixty (60) days of the date removal notice is sent by the Registrar. 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.

Discussion on the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Maintaining the Registry’s integrity by ensuring Citizens did not also hold First Nations’ status
- Concerns that registry audits may determine prior Citizenship applications were ineligible and nullify those Citizens as a result of changing document requirements and call an individual’s Citizenship into question
- Examples provided within legislation, which would trigger an audit or review.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Monica Fisher) and SECONDED (Richard Lewis)

That “BE IT RESOLVED”, Article 6.1 (b), of the Main Resolution be amended by replacing “thirty (30) days” with “sixty (60) days”; and “sixty (60) days” with “ninety (90) days”.

Question on the Amendment to the Main Resolution

Question was called on the amendment to the main resolution. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the amendment to the main motion was:

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2202-09)

Discussion on the Main Resolution as Amended

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Advantages for Elders to apply for First Nations' status due to benefits provided
- Exploring ways to recognize Elders and Knowledge Keepers who were able to acquire First Nations' status
 - Communities can continue to embrace Elders and Knowledge Keepers and allow participation in events to not lose that knowledge
- Individuals' right to choose whether to apply for First Nations' status or MNBC Citizenship; however, they cannot hold both
- Informing communities, through its Regional Director, when an individual is removed from the MNBC registry
- Defining "extension" by detailing criteria in granting an extension
 - Work of the Registrar to coordinate with applicants on requesting and reviewing documents
- Approving extensions unless extenuating circumstances arose
- Providing timelines for a response to applicants on the results of the audit
- Broader discussions around individuals' ability to self-identify as Métis.

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 1:04 p.m. and reconvened at 1:35 p.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

MNGA Clerk Gall confirmed there was a quorum of delegates present, with 39 official voting delegates in attendance.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Caitlin Bird) and SECONDED (Lisa Shepherd)

That "BE IT RESOLVED THAT" of the Main Resolution be amended by inserting the following after the third paragraph:

"Insert the following after Article 2.31:

"Under Review" means a previously registered Citizen whose Citizenship is currently being reviewed by the Registrar following an audit or review of the Central Registry.";

and insert the following after Article 6.5:

"6.6 A person who is placed under review by the Registrar 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 Registrar. 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 to the MNBC Board, who can overturn the decision by a majority vote.

Re-number subsequent Articles in the Citizenship Act as needed."

Discussion on the Amendment to the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Ensuring processes are in place to address impacts on those affected by decisions

- Including provisions within the Registry’s policies and procedures as Item 6.6 was tied to administrative activities
- Adhering to contribution agreements, a number of which stipulate that service must be provided to those who self-identify as Métis.

Question on the Amendment to the Main Resolution

Question was called on the amendment to the main resolution. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the amendment to the main resolution was:

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2202-10)

Question on the Resolution as Amended

Question was called on the main resolution as amended. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. It was noted that 75%, or 30 delegates, were required to vote in favour for the main resolution as amended to pass. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the main resolution as amended was:

CARRIED (MNGA2202-11)

(30 in favor, eight opposed, one delegate abstained from the vote)

13.5 Resolution #4 – Elections – Board Members/Salaried Employees

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Tony Goulet)

WHEREAS:

- A. It is deemed appropriate and necessary to clarify if MNBC Board Members hold a salaried position in MNBC under Article 47 of the *MNBC Constitution*.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The language in the *Constitution* be amended to explicitly state that current MNBC Board Members are not considered salaried contractor or employees of MNBC, as follows:

- A. In Article 47 of the *Constitution*, add the following:

47.1 No person who receives remuneration for being a MNBC Board Member is considered a salaried contractor or employee of MNBC.

Discussion on the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Providing briefing notes in advance of MNGAs for delegates to better understand the context of resolutions
- Work of the Finance and Human Resources Departments to update processes
- Whether considerations were required for the Canada Revenue Agency or other taxation authorities; further information on these considerations were necessary prior to consideration of the resolution.

Resolution Withdrawn

Following discussion on the resolution it was:

WITHDRAWN

13.6 Resolution #5 – Elections – MNBC Staff Members

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Tony Goulet)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The language in the *Constitution* and *Electoral Act* be amended to allow MNBC staff members to be candidates in an election without resigning their position, as follows:

Amend Article 47 of the Constitution as follows:

- A. 47. When nominations close, all candidates holding a salaried position with the MNBC or MNGA *must submit, in writing, notice of a leave of absence.*

Insert the following definition in Article 3 of the *Electoral Act*:

- A. **“Leave of Absence”** means an unpaid leave of absence for a MNBC employee, however, where applicable, an employee may use any accrued annual vacation;
- B. Re-arrange the definitions listed under Article 3 to be in alphabetical order.

Strike the current Article 8.3 (g) of the *Electoral Act* and replace with:

- A. 8.3 (g) If, they are a salaried employee of MNBC:
- 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;
- 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.*

Insert the following after Article 8.3 (g) of the *Electoral Act*:

- B. 8.3 (h) 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.

Re-number sub-articles of Article 8.3 as needed.

Discussion on the Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Impacts of a MNBC contractor running in the election and the requirement to cancel any current contract
 - This requirement would discourage Métis entrepreneurs in seeking leadership positions
- Clarifying the difference between contractors and staff running in a general election
- Requirement for the CEO to grant leaves of absence for staff running in a general election
- Limited number of contractors impacted by the *Electoral Act*
- Further work required around contractors running in general elections.

Question on the Resolution

Question was called on the resolution. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. It was noted that 75%, or 30 delegates, were required to vote in favour for the resolution to pass. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the resolution was:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2202-11)

13.7 Resolution #6 – By-Election – Current Board Members

It was MOVED (Tony Goulet) and SECONDED (Patrick Harriott)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The language in the *Electoral Act* be amended to codify the rules and procedures around Board Members being active candidates in by-elections for the MNBC Board of Directors, as follows:

In the *Electoral Act*:

Insert in Article 3 a definition of “Board Member”:

- A. “**Board Member**” means a person that currently holds a position on the MNBC Board of Directors;
- B. Re-arrange the definitions listed under Article 3 to be in alphabetical order.

Amend Article 8.6 as follows:

Insert as sub-article (a) (select by majority vote):

- A. “A current Board Member may stand as a candidate in a by-election. If elected, they must resign their previous position on the Board of Directors within thirty (30) days of the date of the election, and before being sworn into their new office.”
- B. “A current Board Member may stand as a candidate in a by-election. Any candidate that is a current Board Member must take an unpaid leave of absence from their current Board position. If elected, they must resign their previous position on the Board of Directors within thirty (30) days of the date of the election, and before being sworn into their new office.”
- C. “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 close of nominations.”

Point of Clarification

In response to a Point of Clarification raised regarding how the vote would proceed, whether digitally or publicly, MNGA Speaker Peltier noted that clarification would be reviewed and reported back to the Assembly.

Discussion on the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Reducing the number of by-elections following general elections
- Identifying a deadline in expressing interest in running in the general election
- Unintended consequences of Article 8.6, option “c”.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (June Graham) and SECONDED (President Lissa Smith)

That “BE IT RESOLVED”, sub-article (a), option C, of the Main Resolution be amended by replacing “*at the close of nominations*” with “*at the date the election is announced*”.

Discussion on the Amendment to the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Providing adequate notice of individuals' intention to run in the general election
- Providing time prior to the AGM to explore the implications of option C.

Question on the Amendment to the Main Resolution

Question was called on the amendment to the main resolution. Voting was conducted via the poll function. MNGA Clerk Gall announced the results of the poll. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the amendment to the main resolution was:

CARRIED (MNGA2202-12)

(29 in favor, five opposed, four delegates abstained from the vote)

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 3:24 p.m. and reconvened at 3:39 p.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

MNGA Clerk Gall confirmed there was a quorum of delegates present, with 37 official voting delegates in attendance.

Point of Clarification

In response to the Point of Clarification raised earlier in the Assembly, MNGA Speaker Peltier confirmed that voting on options A, B, or C would be conducted via a roll call vote.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Louis De Jaeger, Region 2 Director, declared a conflict of interest regarding the resolution and abstained from discussion on the resolution.

Discussion on the Main Resolution as Amended

During discussion, comments were offered regarding impacts the main resolution as amended would have on Section 46 of MNBC's *Constitution*.

Vote to Determine Option for Directors Intending to Run in the General Election

MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote to indicate delegates' preference for option A, B, or C, as stated in Resolution 6. Results of the vote are indicated below:

- Option A – 0 delegates
- Option B – 15 delegates
- Option C – 21 delegates
- Two delegates abstained from the vote.

Question on the Main Resolution as Amended

Question was called on the main resolution as amended. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. It was noted that 75%, or 29 delegates, were required to vote in favour for the main resolution as amended to pass. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the main resolution as amended was:

CARRIED (MNGA2202-13)

(29 in favor, seven opposed, two delegates abstained from the vote)

MNGA Clerk Gall offered comments on the effects the resolution may have on the *Electoral Act*, noting complications with timelines and Board Members resigning towards the end of the resignation deadline, which could hinder the ability to include the positions within the general election.

Eli Mina offered further comments regarding potential interference with individuals' rights to attend meetings, propose and debate motions, and the right to be elected for office, particularly in the passing of Resolution A at the Special MNGA held February 3, 2022.

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Process identified in Section 46.3 of the MNBC *Constitution*, allowing Regional Governance Councils to replace Directors as needed to fill vacancies
- Ability for any individual to run in elections
- Addressing technical details at upcoming meetings
- Potential for additional by-elections to be held due to provisions within the resolution
- Additional information to be provided to the MNGA regarding procedures to reconsider a motion.

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 4-6, 2022 adjourned on Day Two – March 5, 2022 at 4:35 p.m. after setting the time to reconvene on Day Three – March 6, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

DAY THREE – MARCH 6, 2022

ASSEMBLY RECONVENED – CALL TO ORDER

The Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 4-6, 2022 reconvened on Day Three – March 6, 2022 at 9:02 a.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

MNGA Clerk Gall confirmed there was a quorum of delegates present, with 39 official voting delegates in attendance.

13.8 Resolution #7 – Ballot Boxes

It was MOVED (Marlene Swears) and SECONDED (Tony Goulet)

ISSUE:

The rather restricted option of online or mail-in balloting at the recent special election for President of the Métis Nation BC had many Métis members in our and other local communities

expressing that they were not computer literate or didn't even have a computer therefore denying them of their right to vote. It should be noted that presently Section 18.1 states that a ballot box shall be provided to a Returning Officer indicating that this option was not allowed in the recent election. The present wording in the *Electoral Act* uses the wording of "may" in relation to how voting can be conducted. This wording is the main issue in causing this effect on the right to vote.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The MNBC *Electoral Act* be amended as follows:

A. Strike the current Article 5.6 and replace with:

- 5.6 *The Chief Electoral Officer shall conduct Elections by Polling Station vote, by Mail-in Ballot, by Online Voting.*
- (a) *Polling Station votes will be mailed by the Returning Officer within a specified time period to a location designated by the Chief Electoral Officer.*
 - (b) *Mail-in Ballots cast by the Electors will be sent by mail or courier within a specified time period to a location designated by the Chief Electoral Officer.*
 - (c) *Online voting must be done within a specified time period thru an electronic site designated by the Chief Electoral Officer.*
 - (d) *Electors must have a choice of all three of the voting options noted in Article 5.6.*

Discussion on the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Difficulties experienced by many Citizens in voting in the previous by-election, and the inability to cast their votes electronically or through mail-in ballots
- Preference of Elders to cast their votes through ballot boxes
- Providing choices to Citizens on how they wish to cast their votes during elections.

Motion to Refer

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Lissa Smith)

THAT Resolution 7 "Ballot Boxes" be referred to the *Electoral Act* Committee, with a report and recommendation on this resolution to be provided to the 2023 MNGA.

Discussion on the Motion to Refer

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Allowing the *Electoral Act* Committee to do its work, including provisions around voting options
- Sufficient time for the *Electoral Act* Committee to explore ballot boxes and offer recommendations to the MNGA prior the 2024 General Election
 - Ballot boxes could be placed regionally or within communities
- Availability of ballot boxes during the previous Federal Election, which occurred during COVID-19 restrictions.

Motion to Close Debate

It was MOVED (Kelly Roberts) and SECONDED (Betty Ann McDonnell)

That debate on the Motion to Refer be called to a close.

Voting was conducted via the poll function on whether to end debate on the Motion to Refer, which required 75% of the votes cast to be in favor.

DEFEATED

(20 in favor, 17 opposed, two delegates abstained from vote)

Continued Discussion on the Motion to Refer

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Not impeding individuals' ability to vote
- Capacity needed for electoral officers wherever ballot boxes were placed
 - Further decisions were required on whether electoral officers would be volunteers or remunerated
- Providing ballot boxes in the upcoming Youth Election
- Surveying Citizens on voting preferences to tailor voting services on the needs of communities
- Date of coming into force of the resolution, which would occur following the 2022 AGM
- Locating ballot stations within each Region
- Importance of respecting Elders' voices and ability to vote.

Question on the Motion to Refer

Question was called on the Motion to Refer. Voting was conducted via the poll function. MNGA Clerk Gall announced the results of the poll. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the motion was:

CARRIED (MNGA2022-14)

(24 in favor, 13 opposed, two delegates abstained from the vote)

13.9 Resolution # 8 - Youth Election Chief Electoral Officer

It was MOVED (Shaughn Davoren) and SECONDED (Monica Fisher)

WHEREAS:

- A. The last MNBC general election was held on September 21, 2020;
- B. The current Regional Representatives of the MYBC Committee, except the Provincial Métis Youth Chairperson, were elected for two year terms, with terms expiring in 2022;
- C. Article 3.7 of the *Electoral Act* provides for the appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer to be appointed by the MNGA;
- D. Lawrence Lewis of Victoria, and his business, One Feather, served as Chief Electoral Officer for MNBC in the 2020 MNBC Provincial Election and the 2021 MNBC By-Election, and is qualified to carry out the role.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Lawrence Lewis of Victoria be appointed Chief Electoral Officer to manage and conduct the MNBC 2022 Youth Election, to fill the positions of Regional Representatives of the MYBC Committee in all seven regions.

Discussion on the Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding the need to begin the process to hire a different Chief Electoral Officer for upcoming elections.

Question on the Resolution

Question was called on the resolution. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the resolution was:

CARRIED (MNGA2202-15)

(27 in favor, none opposed, 12 delegates abstained from the vote)

13.10 Resolution #9 – Youth Election Date

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Shaughn Davoren) and SECONDED (June Graham)

WHEREAS:

- A. The last MNBC general election was held on September 21, 2020;
- B. The current Regional Representatives of the MYBC Committee, except the Provincial Métis Youth Chairperson, were elected for two year terms, with terms expiring in 2022;
- C. Article 3 of the *Electoral Act* defines “candidate” as “meaning a person nominated and qualified to compete for an office in the MNBC election for President, Vice-President, Regional Director, Chairperson and Regional Youth Representatives of Métis Youth of British Columbia, and Chairperson and Regional Representatives of the Métis Women of British Columbia”;
- D. Article 8.1 of the *Electoral Act* requires the Chief Electoral Officer to give 60 days’ notice of the elections, meaning that once the Chief Electoral Officer is appointed, the earliest time that a general election could be held is 60 days after the notice is given; and
- E. Article 4 of the *Electoral Act* states that the date of the election shall be established by the MNGA, in conjunction with the terms outlined in the *Constitution*.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. MNBC hold an election for Regional Representatives of the MYBC Committee in all seven regions; and
- B. The date of this election will be September 8, 2022.

Discussion on the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Consideration of the first day of school, which may limit students’ ability to run and vote in the Youth election
- Supporting youth in their decision regarding the date for the Youth Election.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Marlene Swears) and SECONDED (Cheryl Dodman)

That “BE IT RESOLVED”, Article B, of the Main Resolution be amended by replacing “September 8, 2022” with “August 25, 2022”.

Discussion on the Amendment to the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Ensuring Youth Representatives had the opportunity to fulfill their two-year term
- Following youths' direction on the date that works best for them.

Amendment to the Main Resolution Withdrawn

Following discussion on the amendment to the main resolution it was:

WITHDRAWN

Question on the Main Resolution

Question was called on the main resolution. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the main resolution was:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2202-16)

13.11 Resolution # 10 – Regional Governance Councils

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Lauren Dean)

WHEREAS:

- A. Healthy, supported, and growing Chartered Communities are the basis of a healthy and vibrant Métis Nation;
- B. Timely exchange of knowledge will help strengthen and improve the cohesion of efforts both provincially and locally;
- C. Local communities contribute many hours of their time in volunteer contributions to build local relationships and opportunities for Métis People, it is to the benefit of all MNBC Citizens for MNBC to work with Communities, exchange knowledge of successes and challenges, and prioritise finding resources to support their efforts; and
- D. MNBC needs effective, permanent, and regular communication between Chartered Communities and Ministries to capitalize on opportunities, inform the development of and maximize Citizen enrollment in programs.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The MNBC Constitution be amended to read:

- A. Add the following:

“60.2. 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.

60.3. Regional Governance Councils are responsible for: informing MNBC of Chartered Community efforts and opportunities to ensure support from MNBC Ministries, MNBC political relationships, assisting in prioritising 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 Communities of progress and developments in all MNBC portfolios to ensure a well-

informed Métis Citizenry, and provide opportunities for feedback and concerted efforts.

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

60.5. *Regional Governance Councils may be called by the Regional Director or a simple majority of Council Members.*

60.6. *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."*

B. Re-number existing article 60.2 to 60.7;

C. Amend Article 60.3 to read:

"60.8. If the President of a Community is unable to attend a Regional Governance Council meeting, that Community's Vice President *may participate with voting privileges, provided they are a Métis Citizen.*"

Discussion on the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Ensuring all RGCs had equal opportunities and resources to operate within their Chartered Communities
- Sources of funding received by RGCs
- Attendance at local RGC meetings, including Vice Presidents who attended as observers
- Ability of Presidents and Vice Presidents to bring community feedback to RGCs.

Amendment #1 to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Caitlin Bird) and SECONDED (Lissa Smith)

That "BE IT RESOLVED", Article A, Item 60.3, of the Main Resolution be amended to replace "to ensure" with "for the purpose of obtaining"; replacing "Communities" with "Community Leadership"; and replacing "Citizenry" with "Governance".

Question on Amendment #1 to the Main Resolution

Question was called on the amendment to the main resolution. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the amendment to the main resolution was:

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2202-17)

Discussion on the Main Resolution as Amended

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Importance of leaders provided opportunities to forward concerns on behalf of communities, and to be informed of new MNBC programs and services
- Reduction in costs with the availability of videoconferencing options
- Role of regional service coordinators.

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 10:58 a.m. and reconvened at 11:15 a.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

MNGA Clerk Gall confirmed there was a quorum of delegates present, with 37 official voting delegates in attendance.

Amendment #2 to the Main Resolution as Amended

It was MOVED (Richard Lewis) and SECONDED (Shawn James)

That “BE IT RESOLVED”, Article A, Item 60.6, of the Main Resolution be amended to replace “five (5)” with “thirty (30)”; and to add the following to the end of Item 60.6: “*This notice requirement may be waived by unanimous consent of the Regional Governance Council members.*”

Discussion on Amendment #2 to the Main Resolution as Amended

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Use of the word “unanimous”, as one Director could deem that the meeting was not of an urgent or pressing matter
- Concerns regarding the length of time proposed
- Impacts of a Member being unavailable to respond to provide consent, and having the effect of providing consent
- Ability for RGCs to set out guidelines or principles in providing notice for meetings.

Amendment to Amendment #2 to the Main Resolution as Amended

It was unanimously agreed to accept an amendment to the amendment to the main resolution to revert the notice requirement back to five (5) days.

Question on Amendment #2 to the Main Resolution

Question was called on the amendment to the main resolution. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the amendment to the main resolution was:

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2202-18)

Amendment #3 to the Main Resolution as Amended

It was MOVED (David Allard) and SECONDED (Raynie Gervais)

That “BE IT RESOLVED”, Article C, of the Main Resolution be amended to replace “*Community’s Vice President may*” with “*each Chartered Community Board may delegate a Board Member to*”.

Discussion on Amendment #3 to the Main Resolution as Amended

During discussion, comments were offered regarding ensuring that an elected representative would be delegated to attend RGC meetings.

Amendment to Amendment #3 to the Main Resolution as Amended

It was MOVED (Joy Bremner) and SECONDED (David Allard)

That “BE IT RESOLVED”, Article C, of the Amendment to the Main Resolution be amended to insert “*or Vice President*” after “*President*”; and “*an Elected*” prior to “*Board Member*”.

Discussion on the Amendment to Amendment #3 to the Main Resolution as Amended

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Option to reschedule meetings should the President or Vice President be unable to attend an RGC meeting
- Recognition that Métis Citizens were voting members without being elected
- Reflecting the current reality within Chartered Communities
- Consistency of language throughout the *Constitution* and *MNGA Act*.

Question on the Amendment to Amendment #3 to the Main Resolution

Question was called on the amendment to the amendment to the main resolution. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the amendment to the amendment to the main resolution was:

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2202-19)

Discussion on Amendment #3 to the Main Resolution as Amended

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Background information available to elected Board members, which was not available to general Métis Citizens
- Clarification that only the President and Vice President had voting privileges at RGC meetings
- Providing flexibility to Boards in accommodating time constraints of its President and Vice President
- Encouraging discussions within RGCs in advance of the 2022 AGM
- Training and mentorship opportunities for elected Board Members in attending RGCs.

Question on Amendment #3 to the Main Resolution as Amended

Question was called on the amendment to the main resolution as amended. Voting was conducted via the poll function. MNGA Clerk Gall announced the results of the poll. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the amendment to the main resolution as amended was:

CARRIED (MNGA2022-20)

(32 in favor, four opposed, one delegate abstained from the vote)

Discussion on the Main Resolution as Amended

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Adding discussions regarding this item on RGC meeting agendas to propose further amendments during the 2022 AGM
- Ensuring that RGCs have a clear understanding of its roles and responsibilities.

Amendment #4 to the Main Resolution as Amended

It was MOVED (Alex Ibbotson) and SECONDED (David Allard)

That "BE IT RESOLVED", Article A, of the Main Resolution be amended to delete Item 60.3

Discussion on Amendment #4 to the Main Resolution as Amended

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Process of how to address Item 60.3 in advance of the 2022 AGM, including discussions at RGC meetings and proposed amendments regarding RGC roles and responsibilities
- Including RGC roles and responsibilities within policy manuals
- Receiving feedback from community members on the roles and responsibilities of the RGC.

Question on Amendment #4 to the Main Resolution as Amended

Question was called on the amendment to the main resolution as amended. Voting was conducted via the poll function. MNGA Clerk Gall announced the results of the poll. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the amendment to the main resolution as amended was:

DEFEATED

(Seven in favor, 29 opposed, two delegates abstained from the vote)

Question on the Main Resolution as Amended

Question was called on the main resolution as amended. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the main resolution as amended was:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2202-21)

13.12 Resolution #11 – MNGA Governance Committee

Main Resolution

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

WHEREAS:

- A. The legislation of the Nation is subject to the “living tree” doctrine which provides that a Nation should be vigilant to ensure that legislation is current, and adapted to the changes brought about through time;
- B. The MNGA recognizes the value and need for the Métis people residing in British Columbia to establish a self-governance model;
- C. It is essential to the furtherance of Métis democracy that our governance processes be fluid and regularly updated to stay current and represent Métis people in the best way possible; and
- D. Discussion on existing governance and decision-making structures allows for greater community consultation and input.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA directs that a standing committee be established to review governance and decision-making structures within MNBC and the MNGA.
- B. The Governance Committee consist of the following:
 - a) One appointee from each of the seven MNBC Regions, as determined by the respective Regional Governance Councils;
 - b) One appointee as determined by the MWBC Provincial Committee;
 - c) One appointee as determined by the MYBC Provincial Committee;
 - d) One appointee as determined by the MNBC Board of Directors; and
 - e) MNBC support staff as required, as non-voting participants.
- C. The Governance Committee, once formed, be responsible for creating its terms of reference and establishing priority discussion issues; and
- D. The Governance Committee publish its minutes on the MNBC website and report directly to members of the MNGA annually.
- E. This Governance Committee will be in place for two years, unless, by recommendation of the Committee further time is recommended and approved by the MNGA.

Discussion on the Main Resolution

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Role of the MNBC Board of Directors Governance Committee to make recommendations regarding governing processes
- Supporting and building capacity in communities
- Including an Elder representative to be a voice of communities on the Governance Committee

- Selection process of an Elder representative; each RGC could forward names of Elders interested in serving on the Governance Committee
 - Senators could be provided the opportunity to put forward a representative
- Composition of the Governance Committee, which would include Métis Citizens with governance knowledge
- Formation of a provincial Elders Council
- Challenges in filling all regional positions of the Governance Committee
- Integration of the *Electoral Act* Committee with the Governance Committee.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Lauren Dean) and SECONDED (Kelly Roberts)

That “BE IT RESOLVED”, Article E, of the Main Resolution be amended to replace “*This Governance Committee will be in place for two years, unless, by recommendation of the Committee further time is recommended and approved by the MNGA*” with “*The representative bodies can review and/or replace their representatives at the will of the representative body*”.

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 1:14 p.m. and reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

MNGA Clerk Gall confirmed there was a quorum of delegates present, with 35 official voting delegates in attendance.

Question on the Amendment to the Main Resolution

Question was called on the amendment to the main resolution. Voting was conducted via the online poll function. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the amendment to the main resolution was:

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2202-22)

Question on the Main Resolution as Amended

Question was called on the main resolution as amended. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier declared that the main resolution as amended was:

CARRIED (MNGA2202-23)

(32 in favor, three opposed, no delegates abstained from the vote)

13.13 Resolution #12 – MNGA Meeting Frequency

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

WHEREAS:

- A. The Métis Nation is active and engaged in advancing Métis rights in British Columbia;
- B. A single annual meeting of the MNGA limits the capacity of members to discuss and amend proposed legislative and constitutional amendments amongst themselves and with the communities they represent;
- C. People are accustomed to virtual meetings as a means of conducting business;
- D. As per Article 29 of the *Constitution* and Article 3.1 and 3.2 of the *MNGA Act*, Communities can be represented by their President, or Vice-President; and

- E. More frequent meetings will allow the MNGA and MNBC to be more responsive to the needs of their communities and Métis people.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Article 32 of the MNBC *Constitution* be amended from:

- A. “The Métis Nation Governing Assembly shall meet at least once per year in British Columbia at a meeting called with no less than sixty (60) days’ notice to the MNGA Members by the MNBC. The meeting shall be held at least five (5) months prior to the MNBC Annual General Meeting. The notice requirement does not apply to Article 32.1.”

To read:

- B. “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.”

Question on the Resolution

Question was call on the resolution. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. It was noted that 75%, or 31 delegates, were required to vote in favour for the resolution to pass. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the resolution was:

CARRIED (MNGA2202-24)

(31 in favor, two opposed; one delegate abstained from the vote)

14. CLOSING PRAYER

An opportunity was provided for delegates to provide community updates.

Delegates observed a minute of silence for the people of the Ukraine.

Senators Gladue and Hoogendoorn provided a Closing Prayer.

CONCLUSION

It was MOVED (Shaughn Davoren) and SECONDED (Monica Fisher)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Special Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 4-6, 2022, now conclude.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2102-09)

(Time: March 6, 2022 at 2:39 p.m.)

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 4-6, 2022 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.

Susie Hooper, Secretary

Lissa Smith, President

DRAFT