



**MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY**  
held February 3, 2022  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Special Métis Nation Governing Assembly held February 3, 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)  
Louis De Jaeger, Region 2 Regional Director (Lower Mainland)  
Dean Gladue, Region 3 Regional Director (Thompson Okanagan) and Treasurer  
Debra Fisher, Region 4 Regional Director (Kootenays)  
Raynie Gervais, Region 5 Regional Director (North Central)  
Susie Hooper, Region 6 Regional Director (Northwest)  
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  
Charlotte Lever, Vice President, North Island Métis Association  
Richard Lewis, President, Cowichan Valley Métis Association

**Region 2 – Lower Mainland**

Peter Lang, President, Chilliwack 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  
Richard Hovan, Vice-President, Vernon and District Métis Association  
Betty Ann McDonnell, President, Nicola Valley and District Métis Society  
Trish Plant, President, Two Rivers Métis Society  
Joanne Richardson, President, South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association  
Ed Vermtte, Vice-President, Vermillion Forks Métis Society

#### **Region 4 – Kootenays**

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  
Alexander Norquay, Vice-President, The Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association  
Kelly Roberts, President, Prince George Métis Community Association

#### **Region 6 – Northwest**

Bonnie Merlo, President, Tri-Rivers 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  
Nick Hosseinzadeh, Associate Director, Communications and Stakeholder Relations

#### **RECORDING SECRETARY:**

Christel Guenette, Raincoast Ventures Ltd. (from recording)

#### **1. OPENING PRAYERS**

Region 5 Regional Director Raynie Gervais provided an Opening Prayer.

#### **2. ANTHEMS**

O Canada was played through a video presentation.

#### **3. CALL TO ORDER**

The Official Business of the 2022 Special MNGA scheduled February 3, 2022, was called to order on February 3, 2022, at approximately 5:14 p.m.

#### **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, he confirmed that 34 official voting delegates were in attendance, which met quorum.

MNBC President Lissa Smith commented on the recent news of a Vernon Métis youth who was killed in England, noting that the entire Métis Nation grieved with the family. Offers of condolences and assistance would be provided to the family.

Delegates were informed of the unique nature of the Special MNGA to discuss a second by-election for the vacancy of Vice President, which happened on January 15, 2022. Challenges

that occurred over the previous year, and how MNBC prevailed to overcome adversity and move the Nation forward were acknowledged. The Métis National Council Board of Governors had met and MNBC was being recognized as it strove for self-government. The MNBC's most recent accomplishments demonstrated this advancement, including:

- The Elders' assistance program, which distributed \$131,000 to seniors and Elders through all five waves of the pandemic
- Métis Counselling Connection and Métis Youth Connection, which provided Citizens with access to counselling
- Support of post-secondary education requests for Métis learners through BC
- New funding from the provincial government to increase support in education and career advancement
- Launch of "Métis Speakers", a podcast series regarding Métis culture, healing, and rebuilding
- Acquisition of land in Terrace, where below market rental housing would be constructed for Métis families, while also providing space for offices and Métis Early Years programs
- Establishment of the Amelia Douglas Institute for Métis Culture and Heritage.

#### 5. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2021 SPECIAL MNGA DRAFT AGENDA**

*Related materials distributed in the MNGA 2022 Special Agenda package: Draft Agenda of the Special Métis Nation British Columbia Governing Assembly scheduled February 3, 2022*

MNGA Speaker Dave Peltier advised that the draft agenda did not include a special resolution, which was received following the close of submissions' deadline. According to Article 11.5 of the *MNGA Act*, a special resolution could be included if it was of a "pressing and urgent nature". Delegates were invited to provide comments on including the resolution on the draft agenda, which prompted the following:

- Including a second special resolution that was submitted within the deadline but not included on the draft agenda
- Intention of the resolution to prevent the necessity of repeated by-elections to fill vacancies that may occur following this by-election
- Mandate of the *Electoral Act* Committee to review the *Electoral Act*; suggested amendments would be presented at the MNGA scheduled March 5-6, 2022.

#### **Point of Order**

In response to a Point of Order raised regarding limiting debate to discussion on the "urgent and pressing nature" of the resolution, MNGA Chair Peltier advised that debate on the merits of the resolution were out of order.

Discussion resumed on the urgent and pressing nature of the resolution, and comments were offered regarding:

- Ensuring that the resolution applied to the upcoming by-election, necessitating the need to consider it at this Special MNGA
- Including the resolution prior to Resolution 1.

#### **Amendment to the Draft Agenda**

MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote to determine whether to include the Special Resolution on the Agenda of the Special MNBC MNGA scheduled February 3, 2022. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the addition was:

**CARRIED (MNGA2201-01)**

(Four delegates opposed; four delegates abstained from the vote)

Alexander Norquay, Vice President, Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association, introduced a second special resolution, which was submitted following criticisms that numerous Citizens did not have the opportunity to vote in the previous President by-election. Mail-in ballots were not received due to flooding and road closures throughout the province, requiring that the by-election be conducted via electronic voting. The submitted resolution sought to enable MNBC Citizens the ability to vote via ballot box in the upcoming Vice President by-election.

### **Discussion on the Inclusion of the Special Resolution**

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Continued issues experienced by Elders in submitting their votes
- Providing the ability for Elders to vote in the upcoming Vice President by-election
- Ability to incorporate COVID-19 protocols at voting stations
- Nature of the proposed resolution, which would require changes to existing legislation and ratification at the MNBC AGM; this could not be carried out prior to the Vice President by-election
- Connectivity issues experienced by many communities, particularly in the North
- Amending the resolution to remove references to legislative changes, stating that this resolution would be in effect for the upcoming Vice President by-election only.

### **Amendment to the Draft Agenda**

MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote to determine whether to include the second Special Resolution on the Agenda of the Special MNBC MNGA scheduled February 3, 2022. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the addition was:

**DEFEATED**

(18 delegates opposed, two delegates abstained from the vote)

John Bieker, MNGA Deputy Clerk, confirmed that the second special resolution would be included on the agenda of the MNGA scheduled March 5-6, 2022.

### **Main Resolution**

MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote to accept the Agenda for the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Special Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled February 3, 2022 as amended.

**CARRIED (MNGA2201-02)**

(Two delegates opposed)

## **6. RESOLUTIONS**

### **6.1 Resolution A – Potential Candidates for MNBC By-Election**

**It was MOVED (Betty Ann McDonnell) and SECONDED (David Allard)**

#### **WHEREAS:**

- A. It is of the utmost importance that MNBC elections are conducted in a democratic, fair and cost effective manner while respecting the time requirements of all involved, including the Volunteer Community Directors and all Citizens.
- B. Article 11.5 of the MNGA Act – Resolutions of an Urgent and Pressing Matter – allows for this Special Resolution to be presented at this time. This is informed by the recent precedence where at the last SMNGA a Special Resolution was submitted without previous dissemination to the MNGA.

- C. Section 47 of the *Constitution* requires any MNBC person receiving a salary to resign their position if they choose to put their name forward for an elected MNBC position.
- D. Despite any individuals right to pursue personal goals these must be weighed against section **Policy B-6 Oath of Allegiance, Confidentiality and Conduct** from the MNBC Board Policy Manual
- Sec A. Ensure the needs and interest of Citizens are primary.
- Sec D. Demonstrate a commitment to operational effectiveness, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility.
- E. The preceding 4 sections combine to form the premise that there is a need for the issues of “unfairness” and possible additional costs and time requirements, to be addressed in one motion.
- F. This issue is time sensitive as any ongoing efforts to address this in an impactful manner will not have any bearings on the upcoming VP By-election. Thus the pressing nature of the matter.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Any candidate for the office of Vice President of the MNBC shall resign their position if they are presently elected in a position that would trigger another by-election if they won. Specifically any MNBC Board Member.

Any other candidates interested in any positions vacated by the above resignations will declare their interests as well, and if applicable resign, so as to combine multiple By-election vacancies into one By-election “event”. Specifically any Regional Women’s Representative or Youth Representative.

These matters shall be agreed on and resolved at this MNGA with the assistance of MNBC staff and gathered MNGA members.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

For greater clarity, these principles do not apply to any other By-election conducted by MNBC.

**Discussion on the Resolution**

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Monetary savings in eliminating the need for multiple by-elections
- Intent that the resolution add a condition to the upcoming by-election and not amend the *Constitution*
- Precedence of the *Constitution* over the *Electoral Act*
- Unfairness in requiring a Director and/or staff to resign their positions; should Directors not be successful in their election bid they would be unable to retain their Directorship
- Potential for election results to be appealed to the Senate should this resolution pass
- Determination that Directors were not employees and thus Section 47 of the *Constitution* did not apply
- Need to require public servants to not continue in previous positions or receive a pay cheque when running for public office
- Effects this resolution would have to the *Constitution*
- Amending the resolution to require a leave of absence rather than a resignation, as is the practice in municipal, provincial and federal elections
- Removing barriers to MNBC Citizens to encourage them to run for public office
- Voter fatigue resulting from multiple by-elections

- Work of the Electoral Committee to amend the *Electoral Act* to ensure consistency throughout.

### **Question on the Resolution**

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

**CARRIED (MNGA2201-03)**

(10 delegates opposed; 7 delegates abstained from the vote)

## **6.2 Resolution #1 – Chief Electoral Officer**

### **Main Resolution**

**It was MOVED (Paulette Flamond) and SECONDED (Lissa Smith)**

#### **WHEREAS:**

- A. The position of Vice-President of the MNBC is currently vacant;
- B. Article 3.7 of the *Electoral Act* provides for the appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer to be appointed by the MNGA;
- C. Article 46 of the MNBC *Constitution* requires a by-election be called to fill any vacancy on the MNBC Board of Directors;
- D. Lawrence Lewis of Victoria, and his business, OneFeather, 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 By-Election, to fill the vacant position of Vice-President of the MNBC.

### **Discussion on the Main Resolution**

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Honouring the existing contract with OneFeather, which states work would continue on all by-elections until the next general election
- Assisting Elders in ensuring they are able to cast their vote
- Challenges Citizens experienced with mail-in ballots during the previous by-election as there were difficulties receiving and mailing ballots because of the flooding and numerous road closures, thus negating their ability to vote.

### **Amendment to the Main Resolution**

**It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Raynie Gervais)**

That “WHEREAS”, Article A, of the Main Resolution be amended by inserting “*and others*”, following “*Vice President of the MNBC*”; and that “BE IT RESOLVED” be amended by replacing “*the vacant position of Vice President of the MNBC*”, with “*all elected vacant positions on the MNBC Board of Directors and the Métis Women British Columbia*”.

### **Discussion on the Amendment to the Main Resolution**

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Past precedent of naming all positions that are up for election that fall under the *Electoral Act* within the body of the resolution

- Clarification that OneFeather was not under contract to conduct the upcoming by-election.

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

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

**CARRIED (MNGA2201-04)**

(Two delegates opposed; two delegates abstained from the vote)

### **Discussion on the Resolution as Amended**

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Difficulties experienced by Elders in casting their vote electronically; support was required from MNBC to assist Elders in the upcoming by-election
- MNBC ensuring that OneFeather follow direction provided by the MNGA, namely, ensuring all Citizens can cast their vote
- Clarification that while OneFeather was not under contract to run the by-election, delays would occur should MNBC require a call for proposals in retaining a new Chief Electoral Officer
- Suggestion to provide a mail-in ballot to each MNBC Citizen, enabling them a choice as to whether to cast their vote electronically or by mail-in ballot
- Recognition of previous generations' fight to enable Métis Citizens the right to vote; Elders remember this fight and recognized the importance of casting their vote
  - Many Elders do not trust electronic voting or mail-in ballots and prefer polling stations
- Majority of votes from the previous by-election, which were cast electronically
  - A breakdown by region would be useful to determine where the majority of online votes were cast
- Suggestion to establish electronic voting stations in communities to assist Elders in casting their votes
  - Further exploration would be required as complications would arise with security concerns and numerous ballots originating from a single IP address.

### **Question on the Resolution**

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

**CARRIED (MNGA2201-05)**

(Three delegates opposed; one delegate abstained from the vote)

## **6.3 Resolution #2 – Election Date**

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

### **WHEREAS:**

- A. There are vacant positions on the MNBC Board of Directors and the Métis Women British Columbia;
- B. Article 46 of the MNBC *Constitution* requires a by-election be called to fill any vacancy on the MNBC Board of Directors;
- C. Article 41 of the *Constitution* states that the President and the Vice-President of the MNBC, the Chairperson for the Métis Women of British Columbia, and the Chairperson for the Métis Youth of British Columbia shall be elected by a province-wide ballot;

- D. 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”;
- E. 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 an election could be held is 60 days after the notice is given; and
- F. 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 a by-election for all elected vacant positions on the MNBC Board of Directors and the Métis Women British Columbia;  
The date of this by-election will be: April 27, 2022.

**Discussion on the Resolution**

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Whether the first special resolution passed at this Special MNGA impacted dates and timelines outlined in this resolution
- Readiness of OneFeather to accommodate any date chosen by the MNGA
- Confirmation that all dates stated in the resolution were compliant with the *Constitution’s* timelines
- Ability for newly vacated Board positions to be added within five days of nominations
- Sufficiency of a letter of resignation should a Board member choose to submit their name for nomination.

**Poll to Determine By-Election Date**

Delegates used the poll function to indicate their preference for the by-election date. Results of the poll are indicated below:

- April 14, 2022 – nine delegates
- April 27, 2022 – 12 delegates
- May 12, 2022 – 14 delegates.

As a majority result was not reached, the date with the least amount of votes was removed and the poll redone. Results of the poll are indicated below:

- April 27, 2022 – 20 delegates
- May 12, 2022 – 14 delegates.

**Question on the Resolution**

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

**CARRIED (MNGA2201-06)**

(One delegate abstained from the vote)



### 6.3 Resolution #3 – Campaign Financing

#### **It was MOVED (Lissa Smith) and SECONDED (Paulette Flamond)**

##### **WHEREAS:**

- A. It is of the utmost importance that MNBC elections are conducted in a democratic, fair, and transparent manner;
- B. That Métis Citizens are protected by outside influence in their elections, reinforcing Articles 4, 5, 9, and 10 of the MNBC *Constitution*;
- C. Unfettered monetary funding in MNBC Elections could result in candidates being elected that are beholden to outside interests, or using their monetary advantage to stifle democratic participation;
- D. The *Electoral Act* is currently being reviewed, with the expectation that it will be amended before the 2024 MNBC Provincial Election; and
- E. The *Electoral Act* is silent on the issue of campaign financing.

##### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Any candidate for the office of Vice-President of the MNBC must agree in writing to the following conditions and principles prior to the Chief Electoral Officer approving them as a candidate;

Any candidate for Vice-President of the MNBC, in the upcoming by-election (April 27, 2022), must disclose any affiliation with any organizations, political or otherwise, that may have an effect on any affairs of MNBC, and this be included when a candidate submits nomination papers to the Chief Electoral Officer, and this disclosure be made public; and

Failure to adhere to these conditions and principles in their entirety may be considered a breach of fiduciary duty to MNBC, resulting in a removal from public office.

##### **A. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE:**

###### **All Candidates will:**

- a. Publicly disclose the names of all individual contributors to their campaign that have contributed an amount to their campaign of more than \$100.00;
- b. Ensure that cash contributions are not to exceed \$100.00;
- c. Ensure that anonymous contributions shall not exceed \$20.00;
- d. Be responsible to maintain a full record of the contributor, and form of contribution;
- e. Record and report the value of all ‘in-kind’ contributions, including such as but not limited to:
  - a. Staff resources;
  - b. Telemarketing services;
  - c. Office space; and
  - d. Legal.
- f. This disclosure be made through the Chief Electoral Officer by completing the “Vice-President - Campaign Finance Reporting Form”; and
- g. This disclosure is to be made within five (5) business days after the results of the by-election for Vice-President are announced by the Chief Electoral Officer.

## **B. CONTRIBUTION LIMITS:**

- a. It is prohibited for any entity, other than an individual, to make a contribution to a candidate.
- b. No individual or business enterprise can reimburse an individual for a contribution to a Vice-Presidential candidate;
- c. The maximum amount an individual can contribute to a candidate is \$1000.00; and
- d. Only individuals that have ordinarily resided in British Columbia for at least six (6) months prior to the election can contribute to a candidate.

## **C. CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE LIMITS**

- a. The maximum amount of all contributions that a candidate can accept for an election is \$50,000.00.
- b. The maximum amount a Vice-Presidential candidate can spend during the writ period is \$50,000.00.

## **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

For greater clarity, these principles do not apply to any other by-election conducted by MNBC.

### **Discussion on the Resolution**

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Misunderstanding that may occur when referring to a legal “person” as a possible corporate entity
- Confirmation that the provincial Women’s Chairperson had a voting seat on the Board of Directors
- Availability of public disclosures of affiliations and financial contributions, which had been removed from the MNBC website following completion of the President by-election.

### **Question on the Resolution**

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2202-07)**

## **7. CLOSING PRAYER**

Delegates were informed that registration for the upcoming MNGA would open shortly.

Youth Representative Shaughn Davoren provided a Closing Prayer.

**CONCLUSION**

By unanimous consent, the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Special Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled February 3, 2022 concluded at 9:00 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Special Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled February 3, 2022 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.

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Susie Hooper, Secretary

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Lissa Smith, President

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