

MINUTES

Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2023 Métis Nation Governing Assembly, held March 3-5, 2023 at the Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel, 5911 Minoru Road, Richmond, British Columbia.

OFFICIAL DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:

Board of Directors

Lissa Smith, President

Walter Mineault, Vice-President

Shaughn Davoren, Chair, Métis Youth BC

Kate Elliott, Chair, Métis Women BC

Patrick Harriott, Regional Director, Region 1 (Vancouver Island and Powell River)

Louis De Jaeger, Regional Director, Region 2 (Lower Mainland)

Dean Gladue, Regional Director, Region 3 (Thompson Okanagan) and Treasurer

Debra Fisher, Regional Director, Region 4 (Kootenays)

Raynie Gervais, Regional Director, Region 5 (North Central)

Susie Hooper, Regional Director, Region 6 (Northwest)

Paulette Flamond, Regional Director, Region 7 (Northeast)

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Region 1 – Vancouver Island

Caitlin Bird, President, The Métis Nation of Greater Victoria Association

Joy Bremner, President, Mid Island Métis Nation

Zevier Brewer, Vice-President, Métis Nation Powell River

June Graham, President, Alberni Clayoquot Métis Association

Tyler Masee, President, North Island Métis Association

Richard Lewis, President, Cowichan Valley Métis Association

Christina Sample, Vice President Miki'siw Métis Association

Region 2 – Lower Mainland

Lee Fraser, President, Surrey/Delta Métis Association

Bryanna Pelletier, Secretary/Treasurer, Chilliwack Métis Association

Kelly Sears, President, Waceya Métis Society

Lisa Shepherd, Vice President, Golden Ears Métis Society

Greg Stanwood, President, North Fraser Métis Association

Pixie Wells, President, Fraser Valley Métis Society

Region 3 – Thompson Okanagan

David Allard, President, Salmon Arm Métis Association

Ron Caron, Vernon and District Métis Association

Cheryl Dodman, President, Kelowna Métis Association

Jamie-Lee Keith, President, South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association

Betty Ann McDonnell, President, Nicola Valley and District Métis Society
Melissa Kelm, Vice-President, Two Rivers Métis Society
Daina Shaw, President, Boundary Métis Community Association
Natasha Smith, President, Vermillion Forks Métis Society

Region 4 – Kootenays

Nicole Courson, President, West Kootenay Métis Society
Jeff Crozier, President, Rocky Mountain Métis Association
Monica Fisher, President, Columbia Valley Métis Association
Travis Jobin, President, Métis Nation Columbia River Society
Myrtle Servatius, President, Kootenay South Métis Society

Region 5 – North Central

Sylvia Desrocher, President, Prince George Métis Community Association
Tony Goulet, President, North Cariboo Métis Association
Lana J. Olson, President, Métis Nation New Caledonia Society
Marlene Swears, President, The Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association

Region 6 – Northwest

Alicia Fernando, President, Tri-River Métis Association
Patricia Paulson, Interim President, Northwest BC Métis Association
Joy Sundin, President, Prince Rupert and District Métis Society

Region 7 – Northeast

Curtis Belcourt, Vice President, Métis Community Society of Kelly Lake
Peggy Olanski, Vice President, Fort St. John Métis Society

ALSO PRESENT:

Victoria Pruden, MNGA Speaker
Dave Peltier, MNGA Deputy Speaker
John Bieker, MNGA Clerk
Nicole Ludwig, MNGA Deputy Clerk

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Carrie Peacock, Recording Secretary

DAY ONE – March 3, 2023

OPENING CEREMONIES

The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) 2023 Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) commenced with the Grand Entry procession, led by a fiddler, Métis Veterans, flag bearers, and other dignitaries. Attendees participated in singing “O Canada” and the “Métis Anthem”.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND OPENING PRAYERS

Senator Betty Hoogendorn and Senator Philip Gladue acknowledged the traditional lands on which the MNGA was being held and provided Opening Prayers.

GREETINGS AND OPENING REMARKS

The Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia *(a pre-recorded video message)*

Premier Eby recognized the MNBC's accomplishments and anticipated ongoing collaboration related to self-determination and reconciliation.

The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations *(a pre-recorded video message)*

Minister Miller referred to discussions with MNBC leaders related to the recognition of Indigenous rights, and anticipated conversations to advance priorities and support future generations.

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister Responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario *(a pre-recorded video message)*

Minister Hajdu extended appreciation for the MNBC's achievements and acknowledged the importance of continuing to work together.

Audrey Poitras, President of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) *(a pre-recorded video message)*

MNA President Poitras extended appreciation for the Opening Prayers, which reminded delegates to remain focused on the tasks to be accomplished. The MNA President commended the MNBC's ongoing journey to self-government, determination and recognition.

Hank Rowlinson, Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)

MNO Chair Rowlinson referenced recent discussions with federal leaders on advancing the priorities of the Métis Nation and confirmed the MNO's commitment to support integrity and good governance.

Lissa Smith, President of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC)

MNBC President Smith welcomed delegates, and recognized the Veterans and others who led the Grand Entry, before acknowledging the traditional territories on which the MNGA was being held.

President Smith referenced some of the activities and events outlined in the "President's Report", provided with the agenda, and offered comments on:

- The MNBC's Central Registry which now includes more than 23,000 Registered Citizens.
- A Louis Riel Day campaign, coordinated by the MNBC's Intergovernmental Affairs team to raise the MNBC's profile.
- Ongoing meetings with Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to address the MNBC's priority issues.
- Efforts towards finalizing the Métis Justice Strategy, with support from the Province.
- The Board of Directors' priorities, including the delivery of programs and services for Métis citizens (e.g., the Métis Childcare Program).
- Progress pursued through the *Declaration Act Action Plan*, towards distinctions-based funding and programming for Métis Citizens.
- Efforts of the MNBC's volunteers and staff, to support the MNBC's continued progress and success.

The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Minister Rankin extended appreciation for the Opening Prayers and the Grand Entry, and offered additional comments on:

- The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, which recognized the distinct needs of Métis people in BC.

- The 2021 Letter of Intent signed by representatives of the MNBC and the Province of BC, affirming a commitment to a “whole of government” approach that respects Métis self-determination.
- Budget 2023-24, which included supports for housing, health care, climate change and childcare.
- Recognizing September 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, to honour children who attended residential schools and to reflect on a better future.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

John Bieker, MNGA Clerk, conducted a roll call and confirmed that quorum was achieved with 42 official voting delegates in attendance.

NOMINATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF MNGA SPEAKER / DEPUTY SPEAKER

The MNGA Clerk called for nominations for the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the 2023 MNGA, which prompted the following:

1. Victoria Pruden was nominated as Speaker with David Peltier as Deputy Speaker, and both consented to the nominations; and
2. David Peltier was nominated as Speaker with Carmen Carriere as Deputy Speaker, and both consented to the nominations.

The MNGA Clerk called for further nominations and after the third call, with there being no further nominations, declared the nominations closed. The nominees each addressed the MNGA with respect to their candidacy. After a roll call vote, the MNGA Clerk declared that Victoria Pruden was selected as Speaker with David Peltier as Deputy Speaker, for the March 2023 MNGA.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE 2023 MNGA

AGENDA VARIED

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The 2023 MNGA scheduled March 3-5, 2023, was called to order on March 3, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2023 MNGA DRAFT AGENDA

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): Draft Agenda for the March 3-5, 2023 Métis Nation Governing Assembly.

During discussion, comments were offered on the feasibility of providing an opportunity on the last day of future MNGA Agendas, for Community Presidents to provide updates.

It was MOVED (Tony Goulet) and SECONDED (Monica Fisher)

That the Agenda for the Métis Nation British Columbia 2023 Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 3-5, 2023, be accepted as presented with an amendment to correctly indicate: “Audrey Poitras, President of the Métis Nation of Alberta”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2301-01)

3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MNGA STANDING RULES

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): "Draft MNGA Standing Rules".

The following were adopted by unanimous consent:

- The Standing Rules as presented for the March 3-5, 2023, MNGA; and
- The MNGA Clerk will call roll call votes in alternating alphabetical and reverse alphabetical order for the March 3-5, 2023, MNGA.

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 3:45 p.m. and reconvened at 4:05 p.m.

4. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the 2022 Special MNGA

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): Draft Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Special Métis Nation Governing Assembly held February 3, 2022.

It was MOVED (Caitlin Bird) and SECONDED (Greg Stanwood)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Special Métis Nation Governing Assembly held February 3, 2022, be accepted as presented.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2301-02)

4.2 Minutes of the 2022 MNGA

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): Draft Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Métis Nation Governing Assembly held March 4-6, 2022

It was MOVED (Tyler Masee) and SECONDED (Pixie Wells)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Métis Nation Governing Assembly held March 4-6, 2022, be accepted as presented.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2301-03)

5. ACCEPTANCE OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): "MNGA Reports 2023", including reports submitted by the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Regional Directors, Ministries, the Chief Executive Officer, Senate and Chartered Communities.

It was MOVED (Susie Hooper) and SECONDED (Marlene Swears)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) accept the "MNGA Reports 2023", as presented.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2301-04)

6. RESOLUTION 1 - Upcoming MNGA Meetings

Related information (displayed and distributed in the Agenda package): "Resolution 1 – Upcoming MNGA Meetings" submitted by the MNGA Governance Committee and dated January 17, 2023.

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and rationale.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Potentially rescheduling the “December 2 to 3, 2023” MNGA to “November 25 to 26, 2023”
- Recognizing that in-person MNGAs, required more coordination than virtual MNGAs.

It was MOVED (Lisa Shepherd) and SECONDED (Shaughn Davoren)

WHEREAS:

The *Métis Nation British Columbia - Constitution* (the “*Constitution*”) requires that the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) meet at least three times per year, once in person and twice virtually; and

The *Constitution* further requires that the MNGA determine the dates for the next MNGA at a previous MNGA;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA meet on the dates indicated below:

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Meeting Type</i>
June 3-4, 2023	Virtual
December 2-3, 2023	Virtual
March 1-3, 2024	In person

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Lee Fraser) and SECONDED (Greg Stanwood)

That the Main Resolution be amended by changing the “December 2 to 3, 2023” virtual MNGA to “November 3 to 4, 2023”.

Secondary Amendment

That the words “November 3 to 4” be struck and “November 25 to 26” inserted in their place.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2301-05)

Question on the Amendment as Amended

That the amendment be amended by changing the “November 3 to 4, 2023” virtual MNGA to “November 25 to 26, 2023”.

DEFEATED

(13 in favour, 27 opposed, one delegate abstained from the vote)

Question on the Resolution

The question was called on the resolution and it was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2301-06)

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The MNBC MNGA scheduled March 3-5, 2023, adjourned on March 3, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. after agreeing to reconvene on March 4, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

ASSEMBLY RECONVENED – CALL TO ORDER

The MNBC MNGA scheduled March 3-5, 2023, reconvened on March 4, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved with 45 official voting delegates in attendance.

GREETINGS AND OPENING REMARKS

Cassidy Caron, President of the Métis National Council (MNC) (*a pre-recorded video message*)

MNC President Caron commended the growth of the MNBC and the development of programs and services, which aimed to close gaps between Métis citizens and non-Métis citizens. Best wishes were extended for the MNGA's deliberations, and for serving the best interest of future generations.

OPENING COMMENTS

Elder Philip Gladue provided opening comments and recognized the MNBC's accomplishments.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – Discussion Session

Colette Trudeau, Chief Executive Officer, extended appreciation for the Community Presidents, and offered comments on:

- Advocating for the recognition of Section 35 rights, at meetings with MPs and others
- Ongoing efforts to rebuild and maintain the MNBC's relationships
- Setting dates for MNBC leaders to visit communities and citizens, to gather feedback
- A new symbol designed to reflect the Métis citizens in BC with elements including the dogwood, sash and infinity symbol, which will soon be available on a variety of items.

In response to delegates questions, comments were offered on:

- The importance of gathering feedback from communities
- Appreciation for the support provided to Métis communities impacted by natural disasters
- Recognizing the history and experience of some of the MNBC's current leaders, which reflected successful "nation-building"
- Progress on the development of a portal on the MNBC website, which could safely and securely store accessible information uploaded by the MNBC office.

8. RESOLUTION 2 – Communication Policy with Charter Communities

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): "Resolution 2 – Communication Policy with Charter Communities" submitted by the President of the North Cariboo Métis Association and dated January 29, 2023.

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and rationale.

During discussion, comments were offered on the importance of establishing a Communications Policy and Procedures, to guide the consistent and secure gathering and storage of information (in accordance with relevant privacy regulations).

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) work with the seven regions in consultation with Chartered Communities, on Communication Policy and Procedures, that are equitable and transparent; and
- B. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly requests that the MNBC fully fund the development of the above-noted policy and procedures, as a high priority.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2301-07)

9. RESOLUTION 3 – Evolution and Reorganization of the Ministry of Citizenship

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): “Resolution 3 – Evolution and Reorganization of the Ministry of Citizenship”, submitted by MNBC Directors and dated January 17, 2023.

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and confirmed that at least 75% of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour for the resolution to be duly ratified. Pursuant to Article 4 of the *MNGA Act*, a roll call vote was required.

Colleen Hodgson, Executive Director, Citizenship, introduced members of the Ministry of Citizenship and offered comments on:

- Efficiencies to the citizenship application process, including assigning an initial intake assessment team and developing a quality assurance model
- Following national criteria to confirm eligibility for citizenship.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Anticipated reductions to the citizenship application processing time
- Application delays due to missing information; applicants are notified when information is required.

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

WHEREAS:

1. The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Ministry of Citizenship has undergone, and continues to undergo substantial changes to provide better service to Citizens;
2. Many current practices do not align with the language in the *MNBC Citizenship Act* (the “*Citizenship Act*”);
3. Legislative provisions require vigilant review to ensure that they are correctly stated; and
4. In the event an error or inconsistency is discovered, the error must be rectified as a housekeeping matter;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The following changes to the *Citizenship Act* be made:

- A. Strike definition 2.5, because it is not used in any current MNBC Legislation;

- B.** Strike definition 2.9 and insert the following in its place:
- 2.29 “**Registry**” means the data and systems used by the Ministry of Citizenship to gather and store information about Métis Citizens;
- C.** Strike definition 2.12 and insert the following in its place:
- 2.12 A “Chartered Community” is a Métis Community that has entered into a Community Governance Charter agreement with the MNBC;
- D.** Strike definition 2.21, and insert the following in its place:
- “**Registration**” means citizenship in the MNBC” and strike all instances of the word “**Membership**” and insert “**Registration**” in its place throughout the *Citizenship Act*;
- E.** Strike definition 2.23, and replace all instances of “Métis Community” in the *Citizenship Act* with “Chartered Community”;
- F.** Strike the word “Standardized” from definition 2.27, so that the title is “**Provincial Citizenship Card**”;
- G.** Strike definition 2.31, and insert the following in its place:
- “**Citizenship Authority**” (the “Authority”) means the office in the Ministry of Citizenship which processes, assesses, ensures Chartered Community acceptance is approved within the required timeframe, and issues citizenship cards. The Authority consists of:
- The Executive Director of Citizenship
 - The Director of Citizenship
 - The Citizenship Assessment Manager
- H.** Subject to approval of **A** to **G** above, reorder and renumber all definitions so that they are in alphabetical and numerical order;
- I.** Subject to approval of **C** above, replace all instances of “Community” and “Chartered Métis Community” with “Chartered Community”;
- J.** Strike the words “as a Métis Citizen” and the second instance of the words “is proof that the Applicant is of Métis ancestry” in Article 3.1, because these phrases are redundant;
- K.** Subject to approval of **F** and **G** above, delete the current Article 4.2 and insert the following in its place:
- 4.2 Upon approval of registration, the Citizenship Authority shall issue a Provincial Citizenship Card recognizing the Applicant as a Métis Citizen
- L.** Subject to approval of **G** above, replace all instances of “Registrar” with “Citizenship Authority” in the other definitions, and Articles 3 to 6, 7.10, 7.11, 8, and 10 to 13 inclusively;
- M.** Strike “sixteen (16)” in Article 4.3 and insert “nineteen (19)” in its place;
- N.** Replace all instances of “Registrar” with “Ministry of Citizenship” in Articles 7.1 to 7.9 inclusively, 7.12 and 7.13 and Nine;
- O.** Strike the current Article 7.2 and insert the following in its place:
- 7.2 The Ministry of Citizenship shall collect and maintain the information necessary to determine registration; the information to be collected is listed on the MNBC Citizenship Application Package and updated from time to time.

- P. Subject to approval of **N** above, insert the word “shall” following the words: “Ministry of Citizenship”, and strike the word “Central” before the word “Registry” in Article 7.5 so that it will read:
- The Ministry of Citizenship shall cause the Registry to be kept safely by administrative, physical and technological safeguards that are reasonable and consistent with this Act;
- Q. Subject to approval of **G** above, strike Articles 8.1 to 8.3 and insert the following as a new Article 8.0 in their place:
- 8.0 The MNBC shall establish a Citizenship Authority which shall maintain and provide Provincial Citizenship Application Forms and Provincial Citizenship Cards to Applicants or Chartered Communities when consent to Release of Personal information forms have been signed and submitted by the Applicant.
- R. Subject to approval of **N** above, in Article 9.1, strike the phrase “retained and/or employed by the MNBC”, so that it will read as follows:
- 9.1 The Ministry of Citizenship shall be required to follow all policies and procedures developed by the MNBC and shall:
- S. Strike the word “that” in Article 11.4 and insert “than” in its place, so that the first sentence reads:
- 11.4 The parties shall be provided no less than two (2) weeks notice of the date on which the appeal will be heard;
- T. Subject to approval of **G** above, in Article 12.0, replace the first instance of “Registry Office” with “Ministry of Citizenship”, and the second instance with “Citizenship Authority”, so that Article 12.0 will read:
- 12.0 The expenses and costs associated with the maintenance of the Ministry of Citizenship including the remuneration for the office of the Citizenship Authority and the Registry office staff shall be established by the MNBC based on the availability of fiscal resources.

CARRIED (MNGA2301-08)

(43 in favour, one delegate voted in opposition, one delegate abstained from the vote)

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 10:40 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved with 45 official voting delegates in attendance.

10. RESOLUTION 4 – Protecting Métis Citizens and the Citizenship Process

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): “Resolution 4 – Protecting Métis Citizens and the Citizenship Process”, submitted by the MNBC Board of Directors and dated January 17, 2023.

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and confirmed that at least 75% of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified. Pursuant to Article 4 of the *MNGA Act*, a roll call vote was required.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Potential implications of questioning a person's Métis citizenship
- Article 6 of the *MNBC Citizenship Act*, which provides the authority to revoke the citizenship of someone who does not meet the criteria for Métis citizenship.

It was MOVED (Walter Mineault) and SECONDED (Greg Stanwood)

WHEREAS:

1. The *Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) - Constitution (the "Constitution")* defines Métis as "a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples, and is accepted by the Métis Nation";
2. The *MNBC Citizenship Act* (the "*Citizenship Act*") authorizes the Registrar to determine whether a person is entitled to be registered as a Citizen, and to determine whether a registered Citizen is found to be ineligible during an audit or review; and
3. Challenges to a person's Métis citizenship by someone other than the Registrar, is contrary to the provisions of self-identification essential to citizenship and the role of the Registrar;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Article Eleven be struck from the *Citizenship Act*;
- B. Current articles Twelve and Thirteen in the *Citizenship Act* be renumbered accordingly;
- C. In the new Article 12.4 (previously Article 13.4) of the *Citizenship Act*, change the words "Article 12.0" to "Article 11.0"; and
- D. Subject to approval of A above, Item 8.1(k) be struck from the *MNBC Senate Act*.

CARRIED (MNGA2301-09)

(42 in favour, one opposed, one delegate abstained from the vote)

11. RESOLUTION 5 – Stipend for Volunteer Community Elected Members

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda was verbally revised by the original submitter when the resolution was moved): "Resolution 5 – Stipend for Volunteer Community Elected Members", submitted by the Cowichan Valley Métis Nation and dated January 31, 2023.

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. Pursuant to Article 4 of the *MNGA Act*, a roll call vote was required.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Providing stipends for Community Elected Members, to support their volunteer efforts
- The feasibility of amending the resolution to direct the MNBC to resource administrative and operational capacity funding for *all* Chartered Communities
- Recognizing the achievements and ongoing workload of the Board of Directors and Chartered Communities (including during the COVID-19 pandemic).

It was MOVED (Richard Lewis) and SECONDED (Caitlin Bird)

WHEREAS:

1. Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) elected members receive compensation for a position held as an elected member, supporting the future of all registered MNBC Members;

2. MNBC elected members recently received an increase in remuneration to recognize the position as being a full time position;
3. MNBC elected members receiving the increase in pay are the President, Vice-President, Directors and other elected members; and
4. MNBC elected members receive remuneration for expenses and costs associated with the position they hold;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA directs MNBC to resource administrative and operational capacity funding for all Chartered Communities.

Amendment to the Main Resolution (WITHDRAWN)

It was MOVED (Walter Mineault) and SECONDED (Monica Fisher)

That the Main Resolution be amended by replacing the entire “BE IT RESOLVED THAT” section of the resolution, to read: “The Métis Nation Governing Assembly directs the MNBC to negotiate resources for administrative and operational capacity funding for all Chartered Communities”.

WITHDRAWN

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved with 44 official voting delegates in attendance.

11. RESOLUTION 5 – Stipend for Volunteer Community Elected Members (Continued)

During continued discussion, additional comments were offered on the varying levels of support needed by Chartered Communities, which required consideration of location, population and other factors.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (David Allard) and SECONDED (Caitlin Bird)

That the Main Resolution be amended by adding the following as “B” to the “BE IT RESOLVED THAT:” section of the resolution: “The MNBC will include the MNGA Governance Committee to participate in the process that will determine the details of resourcing noted in A above.”

CARRIED (MNGA2301-10)

(32 in favour, ten opposed, one delegate abstained from the vote)

Question on the Main Resolution as Amended

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2301-11)

RESOLUTION 5 AS ADOPTED

WHEREAS:

1. Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) elected members receive compensation for a position held as an elected member, supporting the future of all registered MNBC Members;
2. MNBC elected members recently received an increase in remuneration to recognize the position as being a full time position;
3. MNBC elected members receiving the increase in pay are the President, Vice-President, Directors and other elected members; and
4. MNBC elected members receive remuneration for expenses and costs associated with the position they hold;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA directs MNBC to resource administrative and operational capacity funding for all Chartered Communities.
- B. The MNBC will include the MNGA Governance Committee to participate in the process that will determine the details of resourcing noted in **A** above.

12. RESOLUTION 6 – Clarification of Voting for MNGA Members

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): “Resolution 6 – Clarification of Voting for MNGA Members”, submitted by the MNBC Board of Directors and dated January 17, 2023.

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and confirmed that at least 75% of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified. Pursuant to Article 4 of the *MNGA Act*, a roll call vote was required.

It was MOVED (Kate Elliott) and SECONDED (Dean Gladue)

WHEREAS:

1. A principle in any deliberative assembly is that each member is entitled to one vote; and
2. While Community Presidents may also hold a second post as a Regional Representative, there is a mechanism in the *Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) Act* (the “*MNGA Act*”) for the Vice-President to attend MNGA meetings if the President is unable to do so;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The following changes be made to the *MNGA Act*:

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

B. Insert the following as Article 4.2.1a):

4.2.1a) Each member of the MNGA is entitled to one vote per motion at meetings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2301-12)

- 13. RESOLUTION 7 – MNGA Membership: Addition of MWBC and MYBC Regional Representatives**
Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): “Resolution 7 – MNGA Membership: Addition of MWBC and MYBC Regional Representatives”, submitted by the MWBC and MYBC Chair and dated January 9, 2023.

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and confirmed that at least 75% of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified. Pursuant to Article 4 of the *MNGA Act*, a roll call vote was required.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Amending the *MNGA Act* to include regional representatives of the Métis Women of British Columbia (MWBC) and the Métis Youth of British Columbia (MYBC), in the MNGA
- Expanding the composition of the MNGA to be reflective of the MNBC’s membership
- Referring Resolution 7 to the Governance Committee, to consider the feasibility of expanding the composition of the MNGA (e.g., to include representatives of the 2SLGBTQQA+ Community, British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources, Métis Veterans BC Committee, etc.) and to consider how alternates should be appointed.

Point of Order

In response to a Point of Order raised regarding the need to discuss a matter that may already be included on the agenda for consideration (i.e., “Resolution 16: Creation of an Elected 2SLGBTQQA+ MNBC Representative”), the MNGA Deputy Speaker ruled that the current discussion could continue and may preclude the need for consideration of Resolution 16.

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Kate Elliott) and SECONDED (Shaughn Davoren)

WHEREAS:

1. All Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) duly elected representatives shall comprise the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA);
2. The other provincially elected positions within MNBC comprise the MNGA;
3. For uniformity and simplicity, all provincially elected positions within MNBC should comprise the MNGA; and
4. The Métis Women of British Columbia (MWBC) and Métis Youth of British Columbia (MYBC) are a valuable resource for and on behalf of the Métis citizens and people of British Columbia, an effective voice in the MNBC governance process, and an excellent model for the Canadian Métis and the Canadian population in general;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The composition of the MNGA be amended to include the regional women’s and youth representatives, as voting members of the MNGA by amending the following legislation:

In the *MNGA Act*:

- A. Strike “and” at the end of Article 3.1 a)
 - B. Add the following in Article 3.1:
 - b) The regional representatives of the Métis Women of British Columbia and the regional representatives of the Métis Youth of British Columbia; and
- Re-number the existing sub-articles in Article 3.1, so it shall now read:
- 3.1 The MNGA shall be composed of:
 - a) The MNBC Executive as represented by the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary; plus the Regional Directors, Métis Women of British Columbia Chairperson and Métis Youth of British Columbia Chairperson;
 - b) The regional representatives of the Métis Women of British Columbia and the regional representatives of the Métis Youth of British Columbia; and
 - c) The Presidents of the Chartered Communities of the MNBC.

In the *MNBC - Constitution*:

- C. Strike out the current Article 29, and insert the following:
 - 29. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly shall be comprised of:
 - 29.1 The Elected Presidents or Vice-Presidents of Communities;
 - 29.2 The elected President, Vice-President, and Regional Directors of the MNBC;
 - 29.3 The Chairperson and Regional Representatives of the Métis Women of British Columbia;
 - 29.4 The Chairperson and Regional Representatives of the Métis Youth of British Columbia; and
 - 29.5 In the event a Community President is unable to attend a General Assembly, the Community’s Vice-President may represent that community.

Postponement (WITHDRAWN)

It was MOVED (Louis De Jaeger) and SECONDED (Tony Goulet)

That consideration of Resolution 7 be postponed to the June MNGA.

WITHDRAWN

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Louis De Jaeger) and SECONDED (Pixie Wells)

That the “BE IT RESOLVED” portion of the Main Resolution be amended by adding the following:

Add to Section B:

- 3.4 A representative of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Community; and

Add to Section C:

29.5 A representative of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Community.

DEFEATED

(13 in favour, 24 opposed, four delegates abstained from the vote)

Referral to the MNGA Governance Committee

It was MOVED (Caitlin Bird) and SECONDED (Patricia Paulson)

That "Resolution #7 - MNGA Membership: Addition of MWBC and MYBC Regional Representatives", be referred to the MNGA Governance Committee, for a report and recommendations back at the June 3-4, 2023 MNGA.

CARRIED (MNGA2301-13)

(25 in favour, 18 opposed)

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 3:15 p.m. and reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved with 43 official voting delegates in attendance.

14. RESOLUTION 8 – MNGA Act: Housekeeping Amendments

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): "Resolution 8 – MNGA Act: Housekeeping Amendments", submitted by MNBC Board of Directors and dated January 17, 2023

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and confirmed that at least 75% of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified. Pursuant to Article 4 of the *MNGA Act*, a roll call vote was required.

It was MOVED (David Allard) and SECONDED (Susie Hooper)

WHEREAS:

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The following changes be made to the *Métis Nation General Assembly Act* (the "*MNGA Act*"):

- A. In definition 2.17, add an "s" to the word "order" so that the phrase being defined is "Orders of the Day";
- B. Subject to approval of A above, replace all instances of "Order of the day" with "Orders of the Day", so that the phrase matches definition 2.17 throughout the *MNGA Act*;
- C. Strike the word "General" in definition 2.10 and insert "Governing" in its place, so that the phrase being defined is "Governing Assembly";
- D. Strike definition 2.11 and renumber all subsequent definitions accordingly; and

E. Subject to approval of C above, strike the word “General” from Article 3.2 and insert the word “Governing” in its place, so that Article 3.2 will read:

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2301-14)

15. RESOLUTION 9 – Changes to the Veterans Act

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): “Resolution 9 – Changes to the Veterans Act”, submitted by MNBC Minister of Veterans and dated January 17, 2023.

David Armitt, Chair, MVBC, addressed the MNGA and responded to questions related to Resolution 9.

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and confirmed that at least 75% of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified. Pursuant to Article 4 of the *MNGA Act*, a roll call vote was required.

During discussion, comments were offered on the feasibility of an alternate attending meetings with Federal or Provincial representatives, in the event the MNBC Minister of Veterans is unavailable, to ensure Métis Veterans are consistently represented at nation-to-nation and government-to-government discussions.

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Lissa Smith) and SECONDED (Walter Mineault)

WHEREAS:

1. The Métis Veterans British Columbia (MVBC) Committee has undergone some changes, and the *Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Veterans Act* (the “*Veterans Act*”) needs to be updated to reflect these changes;
2. The relationship of the MVBC to the MNBC, and the qualifications for membership and associate membership in MVBC should be stated clearly and succinctly;
3. The role of the Minister of Veterans to the MVBC needs to be clearly defined and understandable;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The *Veterans Act* be amended as follows:

A. Remove the second instance of “of” in Section 2.1 so that it will read:

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

B. Strike Section 3.2 and insert the following in its place:

The spouses and children of MVBC Members who wish to join MVBC may apply for associate membership of MVBC and may be accepted as an associate member (the “Associate Member” or “Associate Members” as the case may be) of MVBC. The MVBC Committee will assess and accept or deny applications for Associate Membership.

- C. Strike Section 3.3 and insert the following in its place:
The MVBC Committee may, at their sole discretion, revoke a person’s associate membership.
- D. Insert new Section 3.5 as follows:
A Member or Associate Member may resign their membership in MVBC, through a written request submitted to the MVBC Committee.
- E. Insert the acronym “BC” following the word “Veterans” in the title of Article Four, so that the new title will be:

ARTICLE FOUR – MÉTIS VETERANS BC COMMITTEE

- F. Strike existing Sections 4.1 to 4.6 and insert the following new Sections 4.1 to 4.12 in their place:
- 4.1 Métis Veterans BC Committee (the “MVBC Committee”) shall be constituted of a Métis Veteran Chairperson, seven Métis Veteran Representatives (the “Regional Representatives”), a Woman Veteran Representative, and a Service Officer, all being MVBC members.
- 4.2 The MVBC Membership shall elect from among themselves the Chairperson, Women’s Representative, and Service Officer. The MVBC Regional Representatives shall be appointed in consultation with the appropriate MNBC Regional Governance Council.
- 4.3 The term of office for all MVBC Committee members shall be no more than four (4) years. Elections and appointments shall be held at a MVBC General Meeting, in the year on which the term for those MVBC Committee members shall expire.
- 4.4 The MNBC Minister of Veterans will notify the relevant Regional Director no less than ninety (90) days before their MVBC Regional Representative term will expire, and an appointment must be made by the Regional Governance Council, if a suitable candidate can be found.
- 4.5 No Member may serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms as Chairperson, Women’s Representative, or Service Officer, without the approval of the MNBC Minister of Veterans.
- 4.6 At least one member of the MVBC Committee shall be a serving or retired member of the RCMP, if a suitable candidate can be found.
- 4.7 A Treasurer and Membership Clerk will be appointed by the MVBC Committee from the MVBC Committee, who, together with the Chairperson, Women’s Representative, and Service Officer, shall collectively act and be known as the “Executive Committee”.
- 4.8 The MVBC Committee shall be responsible for the following duties and functions on behalf of the Métis Veterans British Columbia:
- a.) Maintenance of policy and procedures relating to the conduct and mandate of the Métis Veterans and Associate Members;
 - b.) Maintenance of a list of all Métis Veterans and Associate Members in British Columbia as defined by article three (3);
 - c.) Prepare an annual report for presentation at the MNBC Annual General Meeting, and other reports as requested by the MNBC Minister of Veterans;

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

4.9 Subject to available funding, the MVBC Committee shall meet at least twice per year at a location chosen by the MVBC Committee and may be held in conjunction with the MNBC Annual General Meeting or a MNBC Métis Nation Governing Assembly. The MVBC General Meeting will generally be held in conjunction with the MNBC Annual General Meeting.

4.10 Meetings of the MVBC Committee shall be called by the Chairperson. In the event that the Chairperson is unwilling or unable to call a meeting, three MVBC Committee members may call a meeting.

4.11 No less than seven (7) days' notice of a MVBC Committee meeting will be provided to all MVBC Committee members.

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

G. Strike the current title of Article Five of the *Veterans Act* and insert the following in its place:

ARTICLE FIVE – MNBC MINISTER OF VETERANS

H. Strike existing Sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the *Veterans Act* and insert new Sections 5.1 to 5.3 in their place:

5.1 The MNBC Minister of Veterans shall be an MNBC Board Member.

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

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

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Joy Sundin) and SECONDED (Dean Gladue)

That Article 5.2 of the Main Resolution be amended by inserting the words “an alternate member of the MNBC Board of Directors and” before the words “the Chairperson of the MVBC, so that article 5.2 will read as follows:

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2301-15)

Question on the Main Resolution

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2301-16)

RESOLUTION 9 AS ADOPTED

WHEREAS:

1. The Métis Veterans British Columbia (MVBC) Committee has undergone some changes, and the *Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Veterans Act* (the “Veterans Act”) needs to be updated to reflect these changes;
2. The relationship of the MVBC to the MNBC, and the qualifications for membership and associate membership in MVBC should be stated clearly and succinctly;
3. The role of the Minister of Veterans to the MVBC needs to be clearly defined and understandable;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The *Veterans Act* be amended as follows:

- A.** Remove the second instance of “of” in Section 2.1 so that it will read:

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

- B.** Strike Section 3.2 and insert the following in its place:

The spouses and children of MVBC Members who wish to join MVBC may apply for associate membership of MVBC and may be accepted as an associate member (the “Associate Member” or “Associate Members” as the case may be) of MVBC. The MVBC Committee will assess and accept or deny applications for Associate Membership.

- C.** Strike Section 3.3 and insert the following in its place:

The MVBC Committee may, at their sole discretion, revoke a person’s associate membership.

- D.** Insert new Section 3.5 as follows:

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

- E.** Insert the acronym “BC” following the word “Veterans” in the title of Article Four, so that the new title will be:

ARTICLE FOUR – MÉTIS VETERANS BC COMMITTEE

- F. Strike existing Sections 4.1 to 4.6 and insert the following new Sections 4.1 to 4.12 in their place:
- 4.1 Métis Veterans BC Committee (the “MVBC Committee”) shall be constituted of a Métis Veteran Chairperson, seven Métis Veteran Representatives (the “Regional Representatives”), a Woman Veteran Representative, and a Service Officer, all being MVBC members.
 - 4.2 The MVBC Membership shall elect from among themselves the Chairperson, Women’s Representative, and Service Officer. The MVBC Regional Representatives shall be appointed in consultation with the appropriate MNBC Regional Governance Council.
 - 4.3 The term of office for all MVBC Committee members shall be no more than four (4) years. Elections and appointments shall be held at a MVBC General Meeting, in the year on which the term for those MVBC Committee members shall expire.
 - 4.4 The MNBC Minister of Veterans will notify the relevant Regional Director no less than ninety (90) days before their MVBC Regional Representative term will expire, and an appointment must be made by the Regional Governance Council, if a suitable candidate can be found.
 - 4.5 No Member may serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms as Chairperson, Women’s Representative, or Service Officer, without the approval of the MNBC Minister of Veterans.
 - 4.6 At least one member of the MVBC Committee shall be a serving or retired member of the RCMP, if a suitable candidate can be found.
 - 4.7 A Treasurer and Membership Clerk will be appointed by the MVBC Committee from the MVBC Committee, who, together with the Chairperson, Women’s Representative, and Service Officer, shall collectively act and be known as the “Executive Committee”.
 - 4.8 The MVBC Committee shall be responsible for the following duties and functions on behalf of the Métis Veterans British Columbia:
 - a.) Maintenance of policy and procedures relating to the conduct and mandate of the Métis Veterans and Associate Members;
 - b.) Maintenance of a list of all Métis Veterans and Associate Members in British Columbia as defined by article three (3);
 - c.) Prepare an annual report for presentation at the MNBC Annual General Meeting, and other reports as requested by the MNBC Minister of Veterans;
 - d.) Serve as Gabriel Dumont Scouts as may be requested by MNBC from time to time;
 - e.) Co-ordinate and organize flag processions and flag placement as requested or appropriate from time to time, and other duties as required;
 - f.) Advocate to enhance the status of Métis Veterans;
 - g.) Provide service and support to Métis Veterans in British Columbia;
 - h.) Represent themselves as Métis veterans at municipal, provincial, federal, commemorative, or other events.
 - 4.9 Subject to available funding, the MVBC Committee shall meet at least twice per year at a location chosen by the MVBC Committee and may be held in conjunction with

the MNBC Annual General Meeting or a MNBC Métis Nation Governing Assembly. The MVBC General Meeting will generally be held in conjunction with the MNBC Annual General Meeting.

- 4.10 Meetings of the MVBC Committee shall be called by the Chairperson. In the event that the Chairperson is unwilling or unable to call a meeting, three MVBC Committee members may call a meeting.
 - 4.11 No less than seven (7) days' notice of a MVBC Committee meeting will be provided to all MVBC Committee members.
 - 4.12 An MVBC Member, while conducting their duties of the MVBC, shall not be subject to any civil action, lawsuit, or prosecution, as a result of anything done or not done in relation to their duties.
- G.** Strike the current title of Article Five of the *Veterans Act* and insert the following in its place:
ARTICLE FIVE – MNBC MINISTER OF VETERANS
- H.** Strike existing Sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the *Veterans Act* and insert new Sections 5.1 to 5.3 in their place:
- 5.1 The MNBC Minister of Veterans shall be an MNBC Board Member.
 - 5.2 The MNBC Minister of Veterans shall provide Provincial and Federal representation on behalf of the MVBC and will be accountable to the MVBC Committee. In the event the Minister of Veterans is unable to attend, the Minister may request that an alternate member of the MNBC Board of Directors the Chairperson of the MVBC attend in their place.
 - 5.3 For the purpose of official business, the voice of the MVBC shall be brought to the MNBC, Métis National Council, Federal and Provincial Governments, organizations, and associations through the Minister in consultation with the MVBC Committee.

16. RESOLUTION 10 – Dissolving of a Community (Suspension of Funding Actions)

Related information (provided with the agenda and displayed): “Resolution 10 – Dissolving of a Community (Suspension of Funding Actions)”, submitted by West Kootenay Métis Society and dated February 1, 2023.

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. Pursuant to Article 4 of the *MNGA Act*, a roll call vote was required.

During discussion, comments were offered on the feasibility of extending the timeline for resolving issues referred by the MNBC to the Regional Governance Council, from 60 to 90 days.

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Nicole Courson) and SECONDED (Debra Fisher)

WHEREAS:

1. Section 59 of the *Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) – Constitution* (the “*Constitution*”) provides the MNBC at its own discretion shall make recommendations to the Métis Nation

Governing Assembly (MNGA) as deemed appropriate, with the effect of dissolving a Community Governance Charter and affiliation with the MNBC;

2. The present MNBC Board of Directors has in the past two years, taken action of “full suspension of funding” to several MNBC Communities without any representation or notification to the MNGA, in effect removing support for community services to MNBC Citizens within those communities;
3. The present use of “Funding Suspensions” is contrary to the MNBC mandate of providing access to services without any recommendations from or intervention with the MNGA or Regional Governance Council (RGC);
4. The removal / suspension of funding is “not” described or noted in Section 59.1 and is in contravention of the principles of Métis Justice and Fundamental Rights, particularly Articles 10 and 11 of the *Constitution*;
5. The removal or suspension of any “Community Governance Charter Agreement” will result in those MNBC Community Members being without services, until they are provided services from another willing and acceptable MNBC Community; and
6. The involvement of the RGC members (Presidents) to communicate and connect with the affected community members and Community Board is paramount in providing services to those members;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Where a contravention of the “Community Governance Charter” is determined by the MNBC with any Chartered Community, the Chartered Community Board must be advised of the specific concern in writing; and
- B. The MNBC shall also refer the concern to the RGC, through the Regional Director, who shall support the concern with the intent to resolve the issue within 60 days.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Lisa Shepherd) and SECONDED (Monica Fisher)

That the number “60” in part B of the Main Resolution be struck and the number “90” inserted in its place, so that Part B will read as follows:

- B. The MNBC shall also refer the concern to the RGC, through the Regional Director, who shall support the concern with the intent to resolve the issue within 90 days.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2301-17)

Referring the Main Resolution as Amended

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

That the Main Resolution as amended, be referred to the MNGA Governance Committee for consideration, as part of their upcoming work on updating Chartered Community Agreements.

DEFEATED

(16 in favour, 27 opposed, one delegate abstained from the vote)

Question on the Main Resolution as Amended

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2301-18)

RESOLUTION 10 AS ADOPTED

WHEREAS:

1. Section 59 of the *Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) – Constitution* (the “*Constitution*”) provides the MNBC at its own discretion shall make recommendations to the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) as deemed appropriate, with the effect of dissolving a Community Governance Charter and affiliation with the MNBC;
2. The present MNBC Board of Directors has in the past two years, taken action of “full suspension of funding” to several MNBC Communities without any representation or notification to the MNGA, in effect removing support for community services to MNBC Citizens within those communities;
3. The present use of “Funding Suspensions” is contrary to the MNBC mandate of providing access to services without any recommendations from or intervention with the MNGA or Regional Governance Council (RGC);
4. The removal / suspension of funding is “not” described or noted in Section 59.1 and is in contravention of the principles of Métis Justice and Fundamental Rights, particularly Articles 10 and 11 of the *Constitution*;
5. The removal or suspension of any “Community Governance Charter Agreement” will result in those MNBC Community Members being without services, until they are provided services from another willing and acceptable MNBC Community; and
6. The involvement of the RGC members (Presidents) to communicate and connect with the affected community members and Community Board is paramount in providing services to those members;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Where a contravention of the “Community Governance Charter” is determined by the MNBC with any Chartered Community, the Chartered Community Board must be advised of the specific concern in writing; and
- B. The MNBC shall also refer the concern to the RGC, through the Regional Director, who shall support the concern with the intent to resolve the issue within 90 days.

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The MNBC MNGA scheduled March 3-5, 2023, adjourned on March 4, 2023 at 4:35 p.m. after agreeing to reconvene on March 5, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

DAY THREE – March 5, 2023

ASSEMBLY RECONVENED – CALL TO ORDER

The MNBC MNGA scheduled March 3-5, 2023, reconvened on March 5, 2023, at 9:15 a.m.

17. **Royal BC Museum - Presentation**

Janet Hanuse, Vice President, Engagement and UNDRIP Implementation, and Alicia Dubois, Chief Executive Officer, Royal BC Museum, reported on the evolution of the Royal BC Museum, and the intent to facilitate storytelling through communications with Indigenous communities.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- A timeline on display at another museum, summarizing the history of Métis people
- Appreciation for the Royal BC Museum's commitment to improve the public understanding of Métis history, and the impacts of Indigenous racism
- The Royal BC Museum's Curator, who will be contacting the MNBC and others, to discuss the Métis content in the museum
- Communicating with MNBC representatives, to coordinate some virtual conversations.

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 9:50 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved with 40 official voting delegates in attendance.

18. **RESOLUTION 11 – Increasing Opportunities for Voting**

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): "Resolution 11 – Increasing Opportunities for Voting", submitted by the Electoral Act Committee and dated January 23, 2023.

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and confirmed that at least 75% of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour for the resolution to be duly ratified. Pursuant to Article 4 of the *MNGA Act*, a roll call vote was required.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- The two "BE IT RESOLVED" options presented for consideration (i.e., to approve "Section A" or to approve "Sections B-E")
- Challenges related to holding elections by mail-in ballots, ballot-boxes in communities, and mobile polling (e.g., inaccurate mailing addresses)
- Efforts to recognize and reduce barriers that deter some citizens from voting
- Future consideration of alternative voting processes, including "voting by text".

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (David Allard) and SECONDED (Cheryl Dodman)

WHEREAS:

1. It is in the interests of the Métis Nation British Columbia and its citizens to have as many people vote as possible in elections;
2. It is often difficult for people to access a ballot box, particularly in large, rural areas of the province;
3. Métis Citizens expressed interest in having more opportunities to cast ballots in elections; and
4. Not all Citizens are comfortable casting votes online, or are able to vote online.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Section A

The *Electoral Act* be amended as follows:

A. Strike the current Article 5.6 and insert the following in its place:

- 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 through an electronic site designated by the Chief Electoral Officer.
 - d. Electors must have a choice of all three of the above-noted voting options.

Sections B-E

The *Electoral Act* be amended as follows:

B. Strike the current Article 5.6 and replace with:

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

C. Insert the following definition as number 3.23:

“Mobile Polling Station” means an advance poll consisting of a team of election officials who visit Communities, and have two secure ballot boxes: one to collect Mail-in Ballots, and one to collect ballots issued by the team to electors who have not previously received a Mail-in Ballot.

AND renumber the remaining definitions accordingly.

D. Insert the following as (a) to Article 15.1:

- (a) Advance polls shall be open for at least four (4) consecutive hours between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the day they are scheduled.

E. Strike Article 26 and replace with the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The MNGA Clerk explained that as a first matter, the Assembly would decide whether to consider “A” or “B to E” and once that had been decided, a vote would be taken to approve to not approve the remaining articles. He also noted that the first vote did not require a roll call vote, and suggested a show of hands be used to decide on whether to consider “A” or “B to E”.

A vote was taken with no votes for “Section A” and 33 votes for “Section B”.

Question on the Main Resolution (B to E)

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

CARRIED (MNGA2301-19)

(one delegate abstained from the vote)

RESOLUTION 11 AS ADOPTED

Note: the resolved clauses have been renumbered to start with the letter "A".

WHEREAS:

1. It is in the interests of the Métis Nation British Columbia and its citizens to have as many people vote as possible in elections;
2. It is often difficult for people to access a ballot box, particularly in large, rural areas of the province;
3. Métis Citizens expressed interest in having more opportunities to cast ballots in elections; and
4. Not all Citizens are comfortable casting votes online, or are able to vote online.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Strike the current Article 5.6 and replace with:

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

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

- B. Insert the following definition as number 3.23:

"Mobile Polling Station" means an advance poll consisting of a team of election officials who visit Communities, and have two secure ballot boxes: one to collect Mail-in Ballots, and one to collect ballots issued by the team to electors who have not previously received a Mail-in Ballot.

AND renumber the remaining definitions accordingly.

C. Insert the following as (a) to Article 15.1:

- (a) Advance polls shall be open for at least four (4) consecutive hours between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the day they are scheduled.

D. Strike Article 26 and replace with the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19. OTHER BUSINESS

It was MOVED (Patricia Paulson) and SECONDED (Lisa Shepherd)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation General Assembly (MNGA):

- Postpone consideration of Resolutions #12 to #18 to the June 3-4, 2023, MNGA due to time constraints; and

- Allow for amendments to be made to these Resolutions, prior to their consideration at the June 3-4, 2023 MNGA.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2301-20)

CONCLUSION

It was MOVED (Caitlin Bird) and SECONDED (Sylvia Desrocher)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia 2023 Métis Nation General Assembly scheduled March 3-5, 2023, now conclude.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2301-21)

(Time: March 5, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.)

* * * * *

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2023 Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 3-5, 2023 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption on June 3, 2023.



David Peltier, Deputy Speaker



John Bieker, Clerk