



RESOLUTION 3

SUBMITTED TO THE 2023 MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Subject: Increasing Opportunities for Voting

Legislation Affected: *Electoral Act*

Submitted by: MNGA via the *Electoral Act* Committee

Submitted to: AGM Clerk

Date Submitted: March 5, 2023

Vote Required for Approval: Majority

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;
4. Not all Citizens are comfortable casting votes online, or are able to vote online.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The *Electoral Act* be amended as follows:

- A. Strike the current Article 5.6 and replace with:
 - 5.6 The Chief Electoral Officer shall conduct Elections by 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;

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

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