



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

MNGA Delegate Orientation

March 2024



WELCOME!

Agenda

1. MNGA Composition and Powers
2. MNGA Submission Deadlines
3. Standing Rules
4. Voting Procedures
5. Voting Thresholds
6. Subsidiary Motions





1. COMPOSITION AND POWERS

- Set out in the *Constitution* (Art. 29):
 - Elected Presidents or Vice-Presidents of Communities
 - MNBC Board of Directors
- Quorum is a majority (more than half) of Community members **and** a majority of MNBC Board members (*MNGA Act*, Art. 4.1)
- The MNGA is given specific powers in the MNBC *Constitution*, and other MNBC Legislation, including:
 - Approving dates for upcoming MNGAs; (*Constitution*, Art. 32)
 - Setting the date of the next MNBC Election; (*MNGA Act*, Art. 12.1a)
 - Choosing the Chief Electoral Officer from a short list provided by the MNBC Board; (*Electoral Act*, Art. 5)
 - Elects the MNGA Speaker and Deputy Speaker for two-year terms (*MNGA Act*, Art .5)
 - Receive nominations for appointments to fill interim vacancies on the MNBC Board of Directors, and MWBC and MYBC Regional Representatives (*Constitution*, Art. 46)

These matters are not required to be submitted by an MNGA Member, since they are required in MNBC legislation.



2. MNGA SUBMISSION DEADLINES

- Set out in the *MNGA Act* (Art. 11):
 - Constitutional changes, and new Legislation/changes to Legislation, and other matters can only be submitted by MNGA Members.

Deadline	Timing
Official Notice sent by MNGA Clerk	60 days
Legislation/Constitutional Amendments from MNBC Board	45 days
Constitutional Amendments from Chartered Community Delegates Notice of Legislation/Constitutional Amendments from MNBC Board to MNGA Members	40 days
New Legislation/amendments from Chartered Community Delegates	30 days
MNGA Information Package distribution to MNGA Members	21 Days



3. STANDING RULES

- **Standing rules** facilitate Progress, include delegates in debate and decision making, and ensure fairness, equality, and common sense (p. 6 of your MNGA Resolutions Book).
- Adopted at each MNGA and may be modified.
- If the Standing Rules and other legislation do not address a situation, *Robert's Rules of Order* is consulted.

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



4. VOTING PROCEDURES

Vote Type	Method	Used For
Roll Call	Clerk calls out name of each delegate, who states how they are voting: yes/no/abstain	Required for new legislation, or changes to existing legislation, including the <i>Constitution</i> , except for Housekeeping (<i>MNGA Act</i> , Art. 4.2.3)
Unanimous Consent	Chair asks if there are any objections to what is being proposed. If there are none, the motion is adopted.	Can be used by the Chair, except for changes to legislation. Used when there is little/no dissent expected.
Show of hands	Clerk calls for delegates in support to raise hands, counts and takes note. Clerk calls for delegates opposed to raise hands, counts, and takes note. Clerk announces outcome of vote.	Can be used for anything except changes to legislation (unless Housekeeping). Often used for Primary and Secondary amendments. If Unanimous Consent fails, a show of hands vote will be conducted.



5. VOTING THRESHOLDS

- Changes to, or new Legislation require **75%** of **members present** to vote in favour
 - While members can vote in favour, opposed, or abstain from a vote, be aware that an abstention functions as a “No” vote.
 - This is because the *MNGA Act* states “75% of the roll call at a governing assembly” (Article 4.5).
- **Majority:** more than half
 - Required for most non-legislative votes
 - Includes amendments to main motions
- **2/3 vote:**
 - Required for some motions where the rights of a member are impacted, e.g.:
 - Suspending the Rules
 - Rescind
 - Previous question
 - Limit/extend debate
- **What about a tie vote? Or exactly 2/3 or 75%?**



6. SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS

What can you do with the topic of the motion?

Postpone Indefinitely	Drops the main motion without a vote
Amend:	Change the text of a motion (insert/delete/replace text)
Commit/Refer:	Delegate action on the motion topic outside of the meeting
Postpone Definitely:	Postpone decision on the motion (not indefinitely)
Limit/Extend Debate:	Set limits (time limit, speaker limit) on motion, etc.
Previous Question:	Close debate, move to vote
Lay on the Table:	Interrupt the current motion so that something else can be done immediately

What else can you do?

Point of Order:	Alert meeting of a potential breach of rules
Appeal:	Appeal ruling of chairperson

Remember: *"no rules can take the place of tact and common sense on the part of the chairperson"*
(RONR 47:6)



Questions?