



RESOLUTION 4

REFERRED TO THE MÉTIS YOUTH BC COUNCIL
AT THE JUNE 2024 MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: Youth Age Requirements

Legislation Affected: *Constitution, Electoral Act, Youth Act*

Submitted by: Nicola Valley & District Métis Society; Two Rivers Métis Society

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: April 17, 2024

Vote Required for Approval: 75%

WHEREAS

1. The *MYBC Act* defines a “Métis Youth” as a Métis Citizen who is between 15 and 30 years old, inclusive.
2. A young adult is not a youth.
3. The definition of “Métis Youth” covers both of these age groups.
4. Young adults face intense challenges, but those are distinctly different from youth, and commonly, these differences are,
 - (a) Young Adults: living arrangements and income
 - (b) Youth: identity and school bullying
5. Youth is an age where, generally, a person is very impressionable and vulnerable and there is zero expectation to stand in this world alone.
6. Young adulthood is where a person has begun to enter the adult world and faces unique challenges in entering the world, as they begin to stand on their own.
7. The following definitions are often used in different contexts to define “youth”.
 - (a) Métis:
 - i. Youth: Hunt with your family
 - ii. Young Adult: Hunt on your own
 - (b) Colonial:
 - (i) United Nations: (UN Secretariat/UNESCO/ILO/ UNICEF/WHO/UNFPA)
 - (ii) People between the ages of 15 and 24 years for statistical purposes.
<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/youth>
 - (c) British Columbia: (BC Youth Justice)
 - (i) People between the ages of 12 and 17 years of age for the purposes of the Youth Criminal Justice Act. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/bcs-criminal-justice-system/youth-justice>

8. It is not appropriate for young adults to be responsible for organizing, leading and attending events. The power dynamics are not appropriate.
9. Given the different life challenges, a young adult is not able to speak on behalf of the needs or views of youth.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. For the purposes of youth representation at the regional and provincial levels, the MNBC set the age of youth between 15 and 24 years of age; and,
- B. Article 38 of the *Constitution* be amended by deleting the struck through words and inserting the underlined words:

38. Any Métis citizen who is between fifteen (15) years of age and ~~thirty (30)~~ twenty-four (24) years of age may vote or seek elected office within the Métis Youth of British Columbia.

- C. Articles 3.15, 6.2d and e, and 8.3c of the *Electoral Act* be amended by deleting the struck through words and inserting the underlined words:

3.15 “Elector” means a Métis citizen who, pursuant to the Métis Nation British Columbia’s Constitution, is no less than 18 years of age as of the date of the Election, has been registered as a Métis citizen pursuant to the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act, and has resided in British Columbia for a minimum of twelve (12) months for a provincial office or six (6) months for voting in regional offices. Any female Métis citizen who is eighteen (18) years of age or older may vote or seek elected office within the Métis Women of British Columbia. Any Métis citizen who is between fifteen (15) years of age and ~~thirty (30)~~ twenty-four (24) years of age may vote or seek elected office within the Métis Youth of British Columbia

6.2 An Elector is entitled to cast one (1) vote for the each of the following offices:

- d. Regional Youth Representative for the Métis Youth of British Columbia for the Region in which the Elector is entitled to vote being 15 years of age to 24 ~~30~~;
- e. Chairperson for the Métis Youth of British Columbia 15 years of age to 24 ~~30~~.

8.3 Any Métis Citizen is eligible to be nominated as a Candidate if, on the day their nomination papers are filed:

- c. Any Métis citizen who is between fifteen (15) years of age and twenty-four (24) ~~thirty (30)~~ years of age may seek elected office within the Métis Youth of British Columbia;

- D. Article 3.8 of the *Youth Act* be amended by deleting the struck-through text and inserting the underlined text in its place:

3.8 “**Métis Youth**” means those Métis Citizens between 15 to and including 24 ~~30~~ years of age.

REFERRED

BE IT RESOLVED

That Resolutions 4 and 5 of the June 2024, MNGA be referred to the Métis Youth BC Council for broader consultation with Chartered Communities and Community Youth Representatives.