

MINUTES

Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly, held March 1-3, 2024 at the River Rock Casino Resort, 8811 River Road, Richmond, British Columbia.

OFFICIAL DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:

Board of Directors

Lissa Dawn 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) and Treasurer
Louis De Jaeger, Regional Director, Region 2 (Lower Mainland) and Secretary
Dean Gladue, Regional Director, Region 3 (Thompson Okanagan)
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, The Métis Nation of Greater Victoria Association
Joy Bremner, Mid Island Métis Nation
Zevier Brewer, Métis Nation Powell River
Ron Caron, Vernon and District Métis Association
June Graham, Alberni Clayoquot Métis Association
Charlotte Lever, North Island Métis Association
Richard Lewis, Cowichan Valley Métis Association
Chrys (Christina) Sample, Miki'siw Métis Association

Region 2 – Lower Mainland

Rob Anderson, Vancouver Sea to Sky Métis Association
Miranda Berard, Golden Ears Métis Society
Lee Fraser, Surrey/Delta Métis Association
Peter Lang, Chilliwack Métis Association
Kelly Sears, Waceya Métis Society
Greg Stanwood, North Fraser Métis Association
Pixie Wells, Fraser Valley Métis Society

Region 3 – Thompson Okanagan

David Allard, Salmon Arm Métis Association
Cheryl Dodman, Kelowna Métis Association
Jamie-Lee Keith, South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association

Betty Ann McDonnell, Nicola Valley and District Métis Society
Marc Dubord, Two Rivers Métis Society
Daina Shaw, Boundary Métis Community Association
Natasha Smith, Vermillion Forks Métis Society

Region 4 – Kootenays

Tophier Burke, Columbia Valley Métis Association
Nicole Courson, West Kootenay Métis Association
Jeffrey Crozier, Rocky Mountain Métis Association
Travis Jobin, Métis Nation Columbia River Society
Myrtle Servatius, Kootenay South Métis Society

Region 5 – North Central

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

Region 6 – Northwest

Alicia Fernando, Tri-River Métis Association
Bernadette Chaboyer, Northwest BC Métis Association
Joy Sundin, President, Prince Rupert and District Métis Society

Region 7 – Northeast

Alana Copeland, Fort St. John Métis Society
Vince Van Wieringen, North East Métis Society
George Pope, Métis Community Society of Kelly Lake

ALSO PRESENT:

Carmen Carriere, MNGA Speaker
Dave Peltier, MNGA Deputy Speaker
John Bieker, MNGA Clerk
Nicole Ludwig, MNGA Deputy Clerk
Jordan Waunch, Master of Ceremonies

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Jana Anderson, Recording Secretary

DAY ONE – March 1, 2024

OPENING CEREMONIES

The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) 2024 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

Jordan Waunch, Master of Ceremonies, acknowledged the traditional lands on which the MNGA was being held.

Senator Betty Hoogendorn and Senator Philip Gladue acknowledged and offered comments on the

traditional lands on which the MNGA was being held and provided Opening Prayers.

GREETINGS AND OPENING REMARKS

President Cassidy Caron, Métis National Council (MNC)

MNC President Caron acknowledged the accomplishments and progress made by the MNBC, positive collaboration between the MNBC and MNC, and expressed support for continuing to strengthen the bond in order to address the challenges, amplify Métis voices, and fight for self-determination and recognition.

Jo-Anne Young, Secretary-Treasurer, Métis Nation Ontario (MNO)

MNO Secretary-Treasurer Young thanked Métis leaders for their dedication and commitment to providing innovative programs and services for Métis families and communities, commented on the path of self-determination and self-government underway through Bill C-53, and need to work together to push for Métis rights and recognition with governments and institutions.

President Glen McCallum, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S)

MN-S President McCallum spoke of the successes of the Métis Governments, which are transitioning to recognized governments, as evidenced in agreements signed with the Government of Canada. President McCallum emphasized that the reconciliation is not only on the shoulders of the provincial and federal governments, but also on the shoulders of Métis, which is supported by Elders who bring the strength of Métis history to the work.

President Andrea Sandmaier, Otipemisiwak Métis Government (Métis Nation Alberta)

President Sandmaier recognized attendees for their role as active participants in serving their Métis government and following in the footsteps of ancestors who supported communities and fought for the recognition of rights and Métis way of life. The support of the MNBC leadership and citizens for Bill C-53 was acknowledged.

The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (*a pre-recorded video message*)

Minister Rankin extended greetings on behalf of the BC government and commented on the importance of building partnerships in the areas of healthcare, Métis children, economic development, women's issues and reconciliation, and for support of MNBC Chartered Communities.

Lissa Smith, President of the Métis Nation British Columbia

MNBC President Smith welcomed delegates, and recognized guests, the MNC Board of Governors, MNC President Caron, Veterans, and others who led the Grand Entry, before acknowledging the traditional territories on which the MNGA was being held. President Smith confirmed the MNBC has provided \$1.4 million to its Chartered Communities to support grassroots initiatives and announced another \$350,000 will be available in the coming weeks. President Smith acknowledged the Vancouver Sea to Sky Métis Association, as the MNBC's newest Chartered Community.

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

- MNBC's partnership with Mission Public Schools and Fraser Valley Métis Association to bring culturally responsive childcare spaces to the West Heights Community
- The Board of Directors approved the creation of 24 distinctions-based childcare spaces in Saanich
- Providing Métis cultural content for young learners through the "Growing our Children" course
- Work with School District 70 – Pacific Rim and the Alberni Clayoquot Métis Society to co-develop a tripartite Métis Education Agreement for kindergarten through Grade 12

- The opening of the Point Ellice House in Victoria scheduled for May 1, 2024
- The opening of the Amelia Douglas Institute for Métis Culture and Language
- The creation of a new Agriculture and Food Sovereignty portfolio under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and reinstatement of the Home Garden Program
- Efforts by the Ministry of Housing and Homelessness to develop 20 projects in every region
- Efforts by the Intergovernmental Affairs team to strengthen MNBC's relationship with the Crown and reset the relationship with the province
- MNBC's continued show of support for Bill C-53
- Endorsement of the "Canada-Métis Nation Accord – Principles of Co-Development" and the January 2024 Permanent Bilateral Mechanism (PBM) meeting
- Recent signing of the Renewed Partnership Accord between the Fraser Salish Regional Caucus, BC Ministry of Health, Fraser Health Authority and MNBC
- Development of a First Nation Relationship Strategy.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

John Bieker, MNGA Clerk, conducted a roll call and confirmed that quorum was achieved with 44 official voting delegates in attendance.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE 2024 MNGA

1. CALL TO ORDER

The 2024 MNGA scheduled March 1-3, 2024, was called to order on March 1, 2024, at 2:17 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): Draft Agenda for the March 1-3, 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly

During discussion on the resolution to adopt the agenda, Vince Van Wieringen, North East Métis Society, requested an amendment to remove "Resolution 2, MNGA Authority to Confirm its Position on MNBC Legislation", citing that it is out of order, given that it attempts to give new meaning to Article 23.a, and it references only existing MNBC Board members, not persons running for office.

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that Resolution 2 was submitted by a member eligible to submit the resolution in accordance with the *MNGA Act*.

Ruling of the Deputy Speaker

The Deputy Speaker ruled that Resolution #2 was valid, it would remain on the agenda, and any discussion or Points of Order could be raised when the MNGA is considering the agenda item, after the resolution was moved and seconded.

MNGA Clerk Explanation

The MNGA Clerk acknowledged that an appeal of the Deputy Speaker's ruling would be in order, noting that if the Point of Order to appeal was approved by the MNGA, further points of order on the Resolution would not be allowed.

Point of Order

President Vince Van Wieringen raised a point of order to appeal the decision of the Deputy Speaker.

The MNGA Clerk reviewed the process to appeal the decision of the Deputy Speaker, noting that the reasons for the ruling would be provided by the Deputy Speaker, after which delegates would each have one opportunity to speak to the appeal. Once all discussion was concluded, the Deputy Speaker would have an opportunity to provide additional remarks after which a vote would be called. A majority vote was required to approve the resolution to overturn the ruling of the Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker provided an explanation on the ruling, noting that proposed Resolution 2 was submitted by several Members of the MNGA, on a date that meets the legislative requirements under the *MNGA Act*, and as such, it would be unfair to remove it without discussion on its substance or merits.

Discussion ensued, on the Point of Order and the impacts of removing the item from the agenda, during which comments were offered on:

- Support by the North East Métis Society to remove the proposed resolution from the agenda
- Support for including Resolution 2 on the agenda to respect the processes and procedures established and the Members who submitted the proposed resolution in accordance with the legislative requirements
- The role of the MNGA to decide items that remain on the agenda.

Appeal the Decision of the Deputy Speaker

It was MOVED (Vince Van Wieringen) and SECONDED (Betty Ann McDonnell)

That the decision of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) Deputy Speaker's ruling on Resolution 2, "MNGA Authority to Confirm its Position on MNBC Legislation", to remain on the agenda, be overturned.

DEFEATED

(1 delegate voted in favour, 1 abstained)

It was MOVED (Pixie Wells) and SECONDED (Cheryl Dodman)

That the Agenda for the Métis Nation British Columbia 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 1-3, 2024, be accepted as presented.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2401-01)

3. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE STANDING RULES FOR THE 2024 MARCH MNGA

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

It was MOVED (Cheryl Dodman) and SECONDED (Pixie Wells)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) accept the "MNGA Standing Rules" for the March 1-3, 2024, MNGA, as presented.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2401-02)

4. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 2023 MNGA

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): Draft Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2023 Métis Nation Governing Assembly held December 1-2, 2023

It was MOVED (Dean Gladue) and SECONDED (Richard Lewis)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2023 Métis Nation Governing Assembly held December 1-2, 2023, be accepted as presented.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2401-03)

5. ACCEPTANCE OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): “MNGA Reports 2024”, including reports submitted by the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Regional Directors, Ministries, the Chief Executive Officer, Senate and Chartered Communities

It was MOVED (Shaughn Davoren) and SECONDED (June Graham)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) accept the “MNGA Reports 2024”, as presented.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2401-04)

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 2:55 p.m. and reconvened at 3:20 p.m.

Vice-President Walter Mineault spoke on the importance of raising awareness on the need for the RCMP and governments to provide resources to support families of missing and murdered Indigenous people. Delegates were urged to participate in Red Dress Day events on May 5, 2024.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

6. MNGA Governance Committee Update

Related information (provided on table): “MNGA Governance Committee Report.”

Travis Jobin, Region 4 Representative, MNGA Governance Committee, read aloud the distributed MNGA Governance Committee Report.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)/Senior Leadership Team Update

Colette Trudeau, Chief Executive Officer, announced the release of the “Métis Food as Medicine and Food (In)security” report, prepared in collaboration between the MNBC, Office of the Provincial Health Officer, Mental Health, Harm Reduction, Environmental Protection, Agriculture, Women and General Equality, and BC Centre for Disease Control.

Dr. Danielle Behn-Smith, Deputy Provincial Health Officer, Office of the Provincial Health Officer, extended greeting to delegates and acknowledged 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Delegates were informed the “Métis Food as Medicine and Food (In)security” report (<http://www.mnbc.ca/foodasmedicinereport>) examines how COVID-19 worsened existing food security issues for Métis in B.C., it highlights the challenges Métis communities face and emphasizes the need for inclusive and culturally sensitive solutions to strengthen Métis food security. The report outlines key findings (statistics) and considerations for further action.

Ms. Trudeau thanked MNBC’s senior leadership team and staff and referenced some activities and events outlined in the “CEO Report”, provided with the agenda, and offered comments on:

- The announcement of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan at the September 2023 Annual General Meeting

- Implementing lateral kindness training and seeking pathways to entrench Métis cultural values within the public service
- Developing internal policies to ensure the MNBC is human centric and aligned with Métis culture
- Finalizing the Social Infrastructure and Facilities Master Plan
- MNBC's acquisition of the Crosstown Apartments in Fort St. John
- The creation of the Capital Projects and Assets Committee (CPAC)
- Continued exploration of opportunities to advance economic development
- The role of the Ministry of Economic Development to drive the economic framework forward
- Revitalization of the Métis business directory to promote Métis businesses and pave the way for economic prosperity and self-reliance
- MNBC's unwavering commitment to prosperity and building opportunities and security for Métis children
- November 2023 announcement of MNBC as the successful contractor to be the caretaker for the Point Ellice House in Victoria
- Launching of the Amelia Douglas Institute in the Spring 2024
- Ongoing efforts to increase capacity
- An "MNBC By the Numbers Annual Report" to be posted online outlining the achievements and illustrating the progress over the past year.

In response to delegates' questions, it was noted that:

- Operational sustainability continues to be a key conversation for the leadership team; MNBC is working with the province on a new fiscal framework agreement to ensure the sustainability of the MNBC
- MNBC commits to identifying a percentage of administration funding for communities:
 - o MNBC has some funding agreements that do not allow for administrative funding to be allocated
 - o MNBC is discussing with the BC government a new fiscal relationship; this includes exploring core capacity funding for communities; an additional \$350,000 will be allocated to communities shortly
- MNBC advocates for jurisdiction of children, and is seeking a coordination agreement with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to help with the creation of Métis laws to take over the care of Métis children
- MNBC partners with service providers (e.g., Lii Michif Otipemisiwak (LMO) Family and Community Services); MNBC provides support through agreements and these partnerships will continue
- Funding for women, gender equity, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is not allocated to Indigenous governments or not for profit organizations that do not work in this specific area; MNBC will continue to lobby for this
- Funding for Métis learners is fixed; there has been an increase in requests as the number of citizens increases
- MNBC continues to build partnerships and relationships with higher education institutes to support Métis learners
- Applications for MNBC's Skills Training, Employment and Post-Secondary (STEPS) are open
- Bill C-91 funding was First Nations based; the *Stonechild v. Canada* class action proceeding was brought on behalf of off-reserve Indigenous children and their families affected by Canada's Indigenous child welfare system
- MNBC has applied to the Province to be the designated representative for Métis children,

- youth and families within the child welfare system in BC
- The Housing and Social Infrastructure Master Plan has not yet been publicly released
- Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) funding is expected in 2024
- MNBC:
 - o Will be creating an economic development structure to help communities pursue economic development opportunities
 - o Is developing community protocols to ensure connections with the communities are maintained and that communities are aware of events/activities.

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The MNBC MNGA scheduled March 1-3, 2024, adjourned on March 1, 2024, at 4:34 p.m. after agreeing to reconvene on March 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

DAY TWO – March 2, 2024

ASSEMBLY RECONVENED – CALL TO ORDER

The MNBC MNGA scheduled March 1-3, 2024, reconvened on March 2, 2024, at 9:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved with 47 official voting delegates in attendance.

8. MOTION 1 – Upcoming MNGA Meetings

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): “Motion 1 – Upcoming MNGA Meetings” dated January 31, 2024

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and rationale and confirmed that the resolution was submitted January 31, 2024, not January 31, 2023.

During discussion, it was suggested that the MNBC consider changing:

- The timing of the MNGA from the first weekend of the month
- The March MNGA to a virtual meeting and June MNGA to an in-person meeting to accommodate winter weather travel.

During discussion on changing the in-person MNGA to take place in June, opposition was noted given that some communities have tourism activities in the summer months.

The MNGA Clerk confirmed the *Constitution* requires that the MNGA meet three times per year, once in-person, and two other times virtually and the budget allows for one in-person MNGA meeting each year. Given the short timelines it would be a challenge to schedule the June 2024 MNGA as an in-person meeting.

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Jeffrey Crozier) and SECONDED (Patrick Harriott)

WHEREAS:

1. The *Constitution* requires that the MNGA meet at least three times per year, once in person and twice virtually; and

2. 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 following days, as indicated in the table below:

Date	Meeting Method
June 1-2, 2024	Virtual
November 30-December 1, 2024	Virtual
February 28-March 2, 2025	In Person

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Jeffrey Crozier)

That Main Resolution be amended by changing the February 28-March 2, 2025, meeting date to a virtual meeting for March 1-2, 2025 and adding an in-person MNGA for May 30-June 1, 2025, as indicated in the table below:

Date	Meeting Method
March 1-2, 2025	Virtual
May 30 – June 1, 2025	In person

CARRIED (MNGA2401-05)

(1 delegate opposed)

Question on the Resolution

Question was called on the resolution as amended, and it was

CARRIED (MNGA2401-06)

(46 delegates voted in favour, 1 opposed and 0 abstained)

FINAL MOTION APPROVED

WHEREAS:

1. The *Constitution* requires that the MNGA meet at least three times per year, once in person and twice virtually; and
2. 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 following days, as indicated in the table below:

Date	Meeting Method
June 1-2, 2024	Virtual
November 30-December 1, 2024	Virtual
March 1-2, 2025	Virtual
May 30 – June 1, 2025	In person

9. MOTION 2 – Establishment of 2024 Election Date

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): “Motion 2 – Establishment of 2024 Election Date” dated January 31, 2024

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and rationale, and invited comments on the

proposed date for the election.

During discussion, comments were offered on the implications of the election date on the Annual General Meeting, the timing of summer vacation and return to school, and on people who work and election officers and scrutineers supporting the election and ensuring a high voter turnout.

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Jeff Crozier) and SECONDED (Patrick Harriott)

WHEREAS:

1. The last general election for MNBC was held on September 23, 2020; and
2. Article 42 of the *Constitution* requires that elections for the MNBC shall be held once every four (4) years on any date within six (6) months prior to the four-year anniversary, meaning that a general election for MNBC is required to be held anytime between March 21, 2024 and September 21, 2024; and
3. Article 12.1 of the *MNGA Act* empowers the MNGA to set the date of the next MNBC election, and Article 4 of the *Electoral Act* allows for Election dates to be set by the MNGA in conjunction with the terms outlined in the *Constitution*; and
4. 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 a general election could be held is 60 days after the notice is given; and
5. The next BC Provincial Election is scheduled for October 19, 2024, and the writ is scheduled to drop on September 21, 2024;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. To meet the terms of MNBC legislation related to Elections, and to reduce the impact of the scheduled Provincial Election, the MNBC General Election be held on MONTH/DATE.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Walter Mineault) and SECONDED (Patrick Harriott)

That the Main Resolution be amended by inserting the date in Clause A to reflect: "Saturday, September 7, 2024."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2401-07)

The Amendment completed the Main Resolution, and no further action was taken.

Question on the Resolution

The question was called on the resolution as amended, and it was

CARRIED (MNGA2401-08)

(46 delegates voted in favour, 1 opposed and 0 abstained)

10. MOTION 3 – Appointment of Chief Electoral Officer

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): "Motion 3 – Appointment of Chief Electoral Officer", dated January 31, 2024

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and reviewed a presentation titled, “2024 MNBC General Election, Chief Electoral Officer, RFP”. Information was provided on the role and responsibilities of the Chief Electoral Officer contained in the *Electoral Act* and legislation, amendments to the electoral process made since the last election, the request for proposals process for the election/contract, an overview of the proposals presented by the shortlisted candidates and a comparative breakdown of expected costs for OneFeather and Voatz.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- Ballot signatures are verified by the Chief Electoral Officer regardless of whether a citizen votes by mail or in person; extra time was allotted to accommodate a mail in ballot process
- The Electoral Act Committee will develop a document, as reflected in Article 5.2(b) of the *Electoral Act*, outlining positions available for election, and the respective responsibilities and time constraints
- The successful candidate will be required to have a British Columbia post-office box mailing address for mail in ballots
- The contract negotiated:
 - o Could include sanctions or repercussions resulting from deficiencies or problems that occur which are under the Chief Electoral Officer’s power
 - o Can require that the Chief Electoral Officer to have a help desk which is answered by a person
 - o Outline expectations, costs, and deliverables
- Citizens have access to create an account on the MNBC Hub to manage their citizenship
 - o Citizens are responsible for ensuring their contact details are up to date; changes and updates to contact details in the Hub are instantaneous
 - o Citizens can also contact Citizenship by email or telephone
- MNBC’s Communications Department can send out a reminder of the election date which will include a reminder to citizens to ensure their contact details are up to date
- The contractor will identify the location for ballot counting; scrutineers can be present.

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 10:49 a.m. and reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

10. MOTION 3 – Appointment of Chief Electoral Officer (Continued)

During continued discussion, and in response to questions, it was noted that:

- The proposed costs for polling stations reflected are “per polling station”
- Subject to available financing, the Chief Electoral Officer has the discretion to allow for advanced polling stations
- OneFeather uses a two-step verification process for online voting; credentials are verified by the Chief Electoral Officer and once online voting is open, a pin code is sent to access a ballot
- OneFeather included staff costs in their quote; staffing costs for Voatz was not listed separately but is part of their overall price
- Given that the MNGA documents are posted publicly, the distributed material was redacted where proponents indicated the information was not to be made public
- Activities to increase voter awareness would be quoted separately and are subject to any extra funding available
- The expectation is that all ballots would be counted at a location in British Columbia.

The Deputy Speaker requested a vote by show of hands to end debate, and more than 2/3 of the Assembly voted in favour.

FINAL MOTION APPROVED

WHEREAS:

1. The last general election for MNBC was held on September 23, 2020; and
2. Article 42 of the Constitution requires that elections for the MNBC shall be held once every four (4) years on any date within six (6) months prior to the four-year anniversary, meaning that a general election for MNBC is required to be held anytime between March 21, 2024 and September 21, 2024; and
3. Article 3.7 of the *Electoral Act* provides for the appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer by the MNGA following a request for proposals and a short listing of potential contractors by MNBC; and
4. MNBC issued a public request for proposals (RFP), and received three proposals in return, one of which did not meet the requirements set out in the RFP; and
5. Pursuant to the *Electoral Act*, the MNBC Board of Directors will review the proposals at its February 28, 2024, meeting and shortlist the contractor candidates;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA members select one of the contractors shortlisted by the MNBC Board of Directors to be appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer for the 2024-2028 period, with the appointment effective March 8, 2024.

Members voted on the choice between OneFeather and Voatz for the Chief Electoral Officer for 2024-2028, with the following results noted:

- OneFeather: 29 votes in support
- Voatz: 18 votes in support
- 1 abstention.

As a majority was required to pass the resolution, the MNGA Clerk confirmed that OneFeather was selected as the Chief Electoral Officer for 2024-2028.

11. RESOLUTION 1 – Provision to Change Voting Procedures at the June 2024 MNGA

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): “Resolution 1 – Provisions to Change Voting Procedures at the June 2024 MNGA”, submitted by the South Okanagan-Similkameen Métis Association and North East Métis Association and dated January 18, 2024

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and rationale and confirmed that at least two-thirds of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Efficiencies that would be created by eliminating roll call
- The transparency to citizens that roll call provides.

The MNGA Clerk noted that Resolution 1 did not affect legislation, as it is not an amendment to the *MNGA Act*. It seeks a temporary provision to suspend provisions within the *MNGA Act*.

It was MOVED (Jamie-Lee Keith) and SECONDED (Vince Van Wieringen)

WHEREAS:

1. The *MNGA Act* requires that voting at the MNGA be conducted by alphabetic roll call voting, unless the matter under consideration is deemed to be a Housekeeping Matter; and
2. Hearing the results of Members' votes may unduly influence the votes of Members whose names are called later; and
3. Roll call voting can be very time consuming and increase the time required to deal with all the business at an MNGA.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Roll call voting for the June 2024, MNGA be suspended, and voting will be conducted in such a way that all Members will cast their vote at the same time, and may include electronic means to cast votes; and
- B. If the method of voting at the June 2024, MNGA does not allow for viewing how individual Members voted immediately after voting, the voting records will be shared with MNGA Members within five business days of the end of the meeting and posted on the MNBC website within 10 days of the meeting; and
- C. The voting records will form part of the official Minutes of the June 2024 MNGA; and
- D. This provision will apply only to the June 2024 MNGA.

DEFEATED

(14 delegates voted in favour, 33 opposed, 1 abstained)

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened at 1:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved with 48 official voting delegates in attendance.

The Deputy Speaker reminded delegates of the Standing Rules of Order.

12. RESOLUTION 2 – MNGA Authority to Confirm its Position on MNBC Legislation

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): "Resolution 2 – MNGA Authority to Confirm its Position on MNBC Legislation", submitted by the Salmon Arm Métis Association, Alberni-Clayoquot Métis Association, Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association, Chilliwack Métis Association, Cowichan Valley Métis Association, Fort St. John Métis Society, Métis Nation Powell River, Mid-Island Métis Association, South Okanagan-Similkameen Métis Association, and, Vernon & District Métis Association and dated January 19, 2024

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution.

During discussion, comments in support of the resolution included: it intends to clarify subsection 23.8 of the *Constitution*; it moves the MNBC forward as a Nation; it will ensure there is fully

qualified leadership in place who uphold and safeguard Métis values; and it protects MNBC's future governance.

Comments offered in opposition of the resolution included: that it could create a precedent allowing for temporary suspensions to other rules; that it does not allow for the voice of Métis communities; it does not include an individual interested in running for election; that it changes the core definition within the *Constitution*; and it does not allow the voices of Citizens to be heard. In response to questions, it was noted that:

- The resolution would not amend the *Constitution*; it endorses an interpretation of Section 23.8 of the *Constitution*
 - o Any amendments to the *Constitution* would need to be approved at an Annual General Meeting
- The Chief Electoral Officer determines eligibility for being a Member of the MNBC based on criteria submitted by candidates; the decision of the Chief Electoral Officer can be appealed to the Senate
- Removing a Member would require a resolution by the MNBC Board of Directors.

It was MOVED (David Allard) and SECONDED (Peter Lang)

WHEREAS:

1. The MNGA is the legislative body of the MNBC as set out in the *Constitution* and it is well within the MNGA mandate to provide additional guidance to the MNBC's Governance processes; and
2. Section 23 of the *Constitution* states:
 23. A person is disqualified from being a Member of the MNBC when:
 - 23.1. They die.
 - 23.2. They resign.
 - 23.3. They are no longer the President of the MNBC, or are no longer the Vice-President of the MNBC or are no longer a Regional Director.
 - 23.4. They are no longer the Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia.
 - 23.5. They are no longer the Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia.
 - 23.6. They are under eighteen (18) years of age.
 - 23.7. They have been convicted of a criminal offence carrying a penalty of two (2) years or greater. A person disqualified from being a member of the MNBC by this sub-section may appeal that disqualification to the Senate.
 - 23.8. They have clearly been identified as having breached their fiduciary duty to the Members or to Métis Citizens.
3. Some parts of Section 23, above, apply only to active MNBC Board Members, such as Section 23.2, while others apply only to individuals intending to run, such as Section 23.6, and Section 23.7 can be applied to serving members OR individuals intending to run, or both.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly declares that Section 23.8 of the *Constitution* which states:

[A person is disqualified from being a Member of the MNBC when] They have clearly been identified as having breached their fiduciary duty to the Members or to Métis citizens

Applies to either active MNBC Board Members, or individuals running for an MNBC Board position, or both.

CARRIED (MNGA2401-10)

(41 delegates in favour, 6 opposed, 1 abstained)

13. RESOLUTION 3 – MNGA Members’ Oath

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): “Resolution 6 –MNGA Members Oath”, submitted by the Fort St. John Métis Society and dated January 26, 2024

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 on the need to clarify the meaning of “association beyond the MNBC” the MNGA Clerk confirmed that the term “association” infers a Métis association.

Two proposed amendments were tabled. The MNGA Clerk confirmed that in accordance with the Standing Rules of Order, as five speakers had not yet spoken on the resolution, the amendments could be accepted with unanimous consent.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- Communities supporting children and family services would not in conflict
- As reflected in the resolution, the MNGA Clerk will be bringing a draft declaration forward to the next MNGA for MNGA delegates to sign confirming they are not in conflict with Article 2.6 of the *MNGA Act*
- The resolution was not expected to create an operational burden; further information on how the resolution would be operationalized can be provided.

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Alana Copeland) and SECONDED (Richard Lewis)

WHEREAS:

1. Article 3.4 of the *MNGA Act* does not allow participating MNGA members to be in a conflict of interest; and
2. “Conflict of Interest” in Article 2.6 of the *MNGA Act* includes becoming a director or officer of a Métis provincial organization whose interests are in conflict with MNBC, or whose activities could negatively affect MNBC’s authority to represent Métis people in British Columbia; and
3. Not all MNGA members may know that conflict of interest includes part 2, above;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The following be inserted as Article 3.3.1 in the *MNGA Act*:

Prior to representing their Community at the MNGA, the President and Vice-President of each Community must make a declaration with the Clerk of the MNGA, or designate, affirming that they are not an officer or director of a provincial Métis body

or Métis association beyond MNBC, other than a Métis Chartered Community.

- B. The MNGA Clerk be directed to prepare a draft declaration outlined above, for approval at the next MNGA.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Tony Goulet)

That Clause A, of the Main Resolution be amended by adding “Métis” before, “association beyond MNBC” so that it reads:

- A. The following be inserted as Article 3.3.1 in the *MNGA Act*:

Prior to representing their Community at the MNGA, the President and Vice-President of each Community must make a declaration with the Clerk of the MNGA, or designate, affirming that they are not an officer or director of a provincial Métis body or Métis association, other than a Métis Chartered Community.

There being no objection to the Amendment, it was

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2401-11)

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Walter Mineault) and SECONDED (Dave Allard)

That Clause A, of the Main Resolution be amended to add: “whose interests are in conflict with the MNBC” before, “other than a Métis Chartered community” so that it reads:

- A. The following be inserted as Article 3.3.1 in the *MNGA Act*:

Prior to representing their Community at the MNGA, the President and Vice-President of each Community must make a declaration with the Clerk of the MNGA, or designate, affirming that they are not an officer or director of a provincial Métis body or Métis association beyond MNBC whose interests are in conflict with the MNBC, other than a Métis Chartered Community.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2401-12)

Amendment to the Amended Resolution

It was MOVED (Caitlin Bird) and SECONDED (Alana Copeland)

That the words “an officer or director of a provincial Métis body or Métis association beyond MNBC whose interests are in conflict with the MNBC, other than a Métis Chartered Community” be struck and the words “in a Conflict of Interest as per Article 2.6 of this *Act*” inserted in their place, in Clause A of the Amended Resolution.:

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2401-13)

Question on the Resolution

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2401-14)

FINAL RESOLUTION APPROVED

WHEREAS:

1. Article 3.4 of the *MNGA Act* does not allow participating MNGA members to be in a conflict of interest; and
2. “Conflict of Interest” in Article 2.6 of the *MNGA Act* includes becoming a director or officer of a Métis provincial organization whose interests are in conflict with MNBC, or whose activities could negatively affect MNBC’s authority to represent Métis people in British Columbia; and
3. Not all MNGA members may know that conflict of interest includes part 2, above;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The following be inserted as Article 3.3.1 in the *MNGA Act*:

Prior to representing their Community at the MNGA, the President and Vice-President of each Community must make a declaration with the Clerk of the MNGA, or designate, affirming that they are not in a Conflict of Interest as per Article 2.6 of this Act.”
- B. The MNGA Clerk be directed to prepare a draft declaration outlined above, for approval at the next MNGA.

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The MNBC MNGA scheduled March 1-3, 2024, adjourned on March 2, 2024, at 2:40 p.m. after agreeing to reconvene on March 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

DAY THREE – March 3, 2024

ASSEMBLY RECONVENED – CALL TO ORDER

The MNBC MNGA scheduled March 1-3, 2024, reconvened on March 3, 2024, at 9:10 a.m.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved with 48 official voting delegates in attendance.

14. RESOLUTION 4 – Clarifying Citizenship Eligibility/Acceptance

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): “Resolution 4 – Clarifying Citizenship Eligibility/Acceptance”, submitted by the Métis Nation Columbia River Society and dated January 25, 2024

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 on the proposed resolution, comments were offered on:

- The understanding that an applicant for citizenship would self-declare that they are not enrolled on any other Indigenous registry
- The importance of applicants understanding what MNBC citizenship means and what meaning of the self-declaration

- Ensuring applicants understand the Oath included in the citizenship application state that the applicant is agreeing that MNBC is their Métis government and represents their Section 35 rights
 - The ability for the MNBC to identify whether an existing citizen was also a member of another organization, particularly given there is no national Métis Registry
- The ability for a person to make a voluntary withdrawal request to be removed from the citizenship list of a Chartered Community.

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Travis Jobin) and SECONDED (Rob Anderson)

WHEREAS:

1. The Métis National Council General Assembly adopted the following “National Definition” in 2002:

“Métis” means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry and who is accepted by the Métis Nation.”
2. In its judgement in *R. v. Powley 2003*, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed that Métis are a rights-bearing Aboriginal people and set out the components of a Métis definition for the purpose of claiming Aboriginal rights under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* based on ancestral connection to and acceptance by historic Métis communities; and
3. Pursuant to the Powley decision, Canada has supported the MNC Governing Members in establishing and maintaining citizenship registries. To be registered as Métis, a person must apply to the Métis Registry operated by the MNC Governing Member in the province in which they reside.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The *Citizenship Act* be amended as follows:

- A. Insert the following as Article 3.1.3

3.1.3 The Applicant recognizes they must not be enrolled on any other Aboriginal registry. This includes being registered as a member, citizen or beneficiary under the *Indian Act* or with any other organization or group that claims to represent Métis or other Aboriginal peoples for the purposes of rights, interests, and self-government.
- B. Subject to approval of A above, in Article 3.2 insert “3.1.3” after 3.1.2 so that the article will read:

3.2 Once the Citizenship Authority is satisfied that the Applicant has met the conditions in Articles 3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.13, the Citizenship Authority may issue the Applicant notification of community acceptance not exceeding 90 days, and then issue a Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Card.

postponed

Point of Order and Adjourn to In-Camera

A point of order was raised on the need to adjourn to in-camera for further discussion on the resolution.

The MNGA Clerk reviewed the process for adjourning to an in-camera meeting and confirmed that the Standing Rules of Order continued to apply.

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

That the Métis Nation British Columbia 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly adjourn to in-camera.

CARRIED (MNGA2401-15)

(28 delegates voted in favour, 18 opposed, and two abstained)

(Time: 9:58 a.m.)

Several members of the Gallery and the Recording Secretary left the meeting.

MNGA Reconvened

It was MOVED (Louis De Jaeger) and SECONDED (Jeff Crozier)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 1-3, 2024, move out of in-camera.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2401-16)

(Time: 11:05 a.m.)

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 11:05 a.m. and resumed at 11:22 a.m. Members of the Gallery and Recording Secretary rejoined the meeting.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

14. RESOLUTION 4 – Clarifying Citizenship Eligibility/Acceptance (Continued)

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution.

Resolution Postponed

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Vince Van Wieringen)

That discussion and decision on Resolution 4, “Clarifying citizenship/eligibility/acceptance,” be postponed to the June 2024 MNGA to allow for amendments to be made to this Resolution prior to its consideration in June 2024.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2401-17)

15. RESOLUTION 5 – Ensuring Representation for Women and Youth at the MNGA and Regional Governance Councils

Related information (displayed and provided with the agenda): “Resolution 5 – Ensuring Representation for Women and Youth at the MNGA and Regional Governance Councils”, submitted by South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association and dated December

Resolution Postponed

It was MOVED (Jamie-Lee Keith) and SECONDED (David Allard)

That discussion and decision on Resolution 5, “Ensuring Representation for Women and Youth at the MNGA and Regional Governance Councils,” be postponed to the June 2024 MNGA, to allow for further consultation with interested parties.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2401-18)

16. INFORMATION SESSION – Information Sharing Agreements

This item was removed from the agenda.

17. CLOSING REMARKS

President Smith extended appreciation to delegates and thanked staff for their efforts in organizing the MNGA. President Smith acknowledged the importance of MNBC's Chartered Communities and seeking capacity funding for them.

18. CLOSING PRAYER

Senator Pope provided a Closing Prayer.

CONCLUSION

It was MOVED (Susie Hooper) and SECONDED (Paulette Flamond)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 1-3, 2024, now conclude.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2401-19)

(Time: March 3, 2024 at 11:36 a.m.)

* * *

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the MNBC 2024 MNGA held March 1-3, 2024, and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.

Carmen Carriere, MNGA Speaker

Dave Peltier, MNGA Deputy Speaker

John Bieker, MNGA Clerk