

2024 MNBC General Election



Final Report

Lawrence Lewis, Chief Electoral Officer Report



October 28, 2024

OneFeather Election Services
209-852 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C.
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John Bieker, Chief Governance Officer
Metis Nation British Columbia
#380 – 13401 108 Avenue
Surrey, British Columbia
V3T 5T3

Re: Submission of MNBC 2024 General Election Final Electoral Officer Report

Dear Mr. John Bieker,

It has been my honor to serve as your Chief Electoral Officer for the recent MNBC Election. I extend my sincere gratitude for the trust placed in me to oversee this crucial democratic process.

This final report presents a comprehensive overview of the election, conducted in accordance with the MNBC Electoral Act. Key contents include:

1. Election results for all positions, including any recounts (Article 37)
2. Voter turnout statistics
3. Summary of the nomination process (Article 8)
4. Overview of voting methods used: mail-in ballots and online voting
5. Report on any election appeals and their resolutions (Article 42)
6. Recommendations for future elections

I'm pleased to report that the election was conducted fairly and transparently, with all procedures adhering to the Electoral Act. We successfully implemented electronic voting to increase accessibility while maintaining the integrity of the process.

I want to thank you and all MNBC staff whose dedication ensured a very smooth and successful voting event. Most importantly, I extend my gratitude to all Métis citizens who participated in this democratic exercise.

It has been a privilege to serve the Métis Nation British Columbia in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

Voting Event Report

Vote Date: September 7, 2025

Total Eligible Voters: **21,822**

Total Voter Participation: **2,718**

% Voter Turnout: **12.5 %** (previous 8 %)

Average Voter Age: **54.6**

Eldest Voter: **97**

Vote Type Breakdown

Vote Type	Number of Voters	Percentage
Electronic	1708	62.84 %
Mail	1010	37.16 %

Age Breakdown

Age	Voters	Turnout	Electronic	Mail
17 and under	32	1.2%	16	16
18-25	171	6.3 %	118	53
26-35	287	10.6 %	209	78
36-45	349	12.8 %	276	73
46-55	422	15.5 %	323	99
56-65	573	21.1 %	375	198
65+	884	32.5 %	391	493

Gender Breakdown

Gender	Voters	%	Electronic	Mail
male	1132	41.6%	677	455
female	1585	58.3%	1030	555
not provided	1	-	1	0

Documentation and Notice Compliance Statements:

In compliance with Article 11 of the MNBC Electoral Act, I hereby confirm that all required notices were posted in a timely and appropriate manner. Specifically:

1. The Notice of election, including rules and preparation of the List of Electors, was provided 60 days before the election date through a mail-out to all Electors (Election Announcement Postcard) and posted on the MNBC website (Article 8.1) and OneFeather website.
2. Within five days after the close of nominations, a Notice indicating the names of candidates, voting method options, and the date and time for voting was posted on the MNBC website (Article 11.1) and OneFeather website.

3. The final list of Polling Stations was posted 21 days prior to the Election Date (Article 16.4) on the MNBC website and OneFeather website.

I hereby confirm that all nomination processes for the MNBC Election were conducted in full compliance with Article 8 of the MNBC Electoral Act. Specifically:

1. Nominations for all positions were received in writing or electronically no less than 45 days prior to the election date (Article 8.2).
2. All candidates met the eligibility criteria outlined in Article 8.3, including age requirements, residency conditions, and citizenship registration.
3. Nominations for provincial positions (President, Vice-President, Chairperson of MYBC, Chairperson of MWBC) included the required number of signatures from eligible electors (Article 8.4).
4. Nominations for regional positions (Regional Directors, Regional Youth Representatives, Regional Women's Representatives) included the required number of signatures from eligible electors in the respective regions (Article 8.5).
5. All candidates provided the necessary documentation, including criminal record checks as per Article 8.3(j).
6. The nomination process ensured that no individual accepted nominations for multiple positions (Article 8.6).
7. Potential conflicts of interest were thoroughly reviewed as per Article 8.7.

I hereby affirm that the official count for the MNBC Election was conducted and completed in full compliance with Articles 36 and 37 of the MNBC Electoral Act on September 7, 2024. Specifically:

1. The Electoral Officer followed the prescribed procedures for closing the polls and initiating the count (Article 36.1-36.3).
2. All ballots were carefully examined and counted according to the criteria set forth in Articles 36.4-36.6, including the proper handling of disputed and rejected ballots.
3. Statements of poll were completed, signed by the Electoral Officer and Deputy Electoral Officers, and immediately reported verbally at the counting location, posted electronically and provided to MNBC directly.
4. All election materials, including counted and rejected ballots, were securely packaged and sealed as outlined in Articles 36.10-36.13.
5. The final results were carefully tabulated and verified before being publicly announced (Article 37.1).

Voting Methods Overview

In accordance with Article 5.6 of the MNBC Electoral Act, this election was conducted primarily through two voting methods: electronic voting and mail-in ballots. This approach was designed to maximize accessibility and participation while maintaining the integrity of the electoral process.

1. **Electronic Voting:** An online voting system was implemented, allowing eligible voters to cast their ballots securely from any location with internet access. This system was operational from August 24, 2024, and closing at 8:00PM PT September 7, 2024.

2. Mail-in Ballots: For those preferring a paper ballot or unable to vote online, mail-in voting was provided. Ballots were sent to all eligible voters, with clear instructions for completion and return. All Mail in Ballot voting packages were sent to voting members on or before August 12, 2024.
3. Community Ballot Drop-off: Upon request from MNBC Chartered Communities, secure ballot boxes were provided for the local deposit of mail-in ballots, as outlined in Article 5.6(a) of the Electoral Act. This option offered an additional layer of convenience for voters who preferred not to use postal services.

Election Appeals Status

As per Article 42 of the MNBC Electoral Act, candidates and electors have the right to file election appeals within fourteen (14) days from the date of the election or from the date of a recount. As the Chief Electoral Officer, I am obligated to report on the status of any such appeals.

At the time of this report, I can confirm that a small number of appeals have been filed with the Métis Nation British Columbia Senate, as permitted under Article 42.1 of the Electoral Act. These appeals are currently active and under review.

However, I have not yet been informed of the status or resolution of these appeals by the MNBC Senate. As outlined in Article 42.3, the Senate is responsible for reviewing these appeals and making determinations. The Chief Electoral Officer's role in this process is to provide information as requested by the Senate to facilitate fair and balanced decisions.

It's important to note that, as per Article 43 of the Electoral Act, an appeal will not be successful if it is shown that the election was conducted in accordance with the Electoral Act and that any irregularity, failure, non-compliance, or mistake did not materially affect the result of the election.

The final outcomes of these appeals, once determined by the MNBC Senate, may have implications for the election results presented in this report.

Election Results Each Office

BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

Option	Mail In	Electronic	Total Votes
DOUGLAS, BRODIE T.A.	259	400	659
MINEAULT, WALTER R.	424	879	1303
WELLS, FLORENCE (PIXIE) E.	250	376	626
Spoiled	30	37	67

BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT

Option	Mail In	Electronic	Total Votes
ALLARD, MELANIE R.	524	850	1374
DE JAEGER, LOUIS M.	435	835	1270
Spoiled	10	7	17

BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF REGION 2 DIRECTOR

Option	Mail In	Electronic	Total Votes
LANG, PETER M.	119	253	372
LAVALLEE, ALLAN D.	148	228	376
Spoiled	2	5	7

BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF REGION 3 DIRECTOR

Option	Mail In	Electronic	Total Votes
ALLARD, DAVID Y.	66	129	195
CHEKNIVCHAN, WENDY R.	59	62	121
DODMAN, CHERYL D.	80	114	194
GLADUE, DEAN L.	84	113	197
Spoiled	1	1	2

BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF REGION 4 DIRECTOR

Option	Mail In	Electronic	Total Votes
COURSON, DONALD E.	33	46	79
FISHER, DEBRA L.	54	102	156
Spoiled	0	2	2

BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF REGION 5 DIRECTOR

Option	Mail In	Electronic	Total Votes
GERVAIS, RAYNIE E.	54	66	120
STERLING, GREGORY G.	17	20	37
STUDNEY, CHRISTOPHER J.	38	43	81
SWEARS, MARLENE I.	26	38	64
Spoiled	0	0	0

BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF REGION 7 DIRECTOR

Option	Mail In	Electronic	Total Votes
FLAMOND, M.L. PAULETTE	30	92	122
VAN WIERINGEN, JOLENE R.	19	100	119
Spoiled	0	0	0

BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE MÉTIS WOMEN

Option	Mail In	Electronic	Total Votes
CARRIERE, CARMEN K.	344	708	1052
VAN WIERINGEN, J. LINDA	181	304	485
Spoiled	2	9	11

BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE MÉTIS YOUTH

Option	Mail In	Electronic	Total Votes
BERGEVIN, DANIELLE O.B.	67	152	219
GREER, BRIANA D.	42	74	116
Spoiled	1	4	5

BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF WOMENS REPRESENTATIVE REGION 1

Option	Mail In	Electronic	Total Votes
TERCIER, THERESE (TERRI) E.	34	65	99
YULE, EMILIA (MIA)	33	82	115
Spoiled	0	2	2

Recommendations for the Next General Election

After reviewing the MNBC Electoral Act and in consideration of the 2024 General Election experience, I can provide the following recommendations for improving future elections:

Recommendation #1: Develop a Comprehensive Elector Education Program

To address the challenges related to elector awareness, it is recommended that MNBC develop and implement a comprehensive Elector Education Program. This program should focus on increasing understanding of campaign protocols, election rules, and MNBC voting processes among all eligible Métis citizens.

Recommendation #2: Develop Comprehensive Candidate Campaign Protocol

To address the challenges encountered with campaign practices, particularly in digital media, it is recommended that MNBC develop and implement a comprehensive Candidate Campaign Protocol. These guidelines should provide clear definitions and rules to follow, particularly regarding the use of various media platforms including social media, email, and text messaging. Additionally, a process for official approval of campaign materials could be established to ensure compliance and maintain fairness (and even possibly financial reporting).

Key components of this recommendation:

1. Develop clear guidelines for campaign conduct:
 - Define acceptable and unacceptable campaign practices
 - Outline rules for social media usage, including frequency of posts and types of content
 - Establish protocols for email and text message campaigning, including opt-in requirements and message frequency limits

2. Create a campaign material approval process:
 - Establish a committee or designate an official to review and approve campaign materials
 - Define what constitutes "campaign material" requiring approval
 - Set clear timelines for the submission and approval process
3. Provide training and resources:
 - Develop a candidate handbook detailing all campaign rules and protocols
 - Offer training sessions for candidates and their campaign teams on the new guidelines
4. Implement a monitoring and enforcement mechanism:
 - Establish a process for reporting potential violations
 - Define consequences for non-compliance with campaign rules
 - Create an appeal process for candidates who dispute rule interpretations
5. Ensure transparency:
 - Make all campaign rules and guidelines publicly available to voters
 - Regularly update the MNBC community on any changes or clarifications to the rules

Recommendation #3: Clarify and Strengthen the Election Appeal Process

It is strongly recommended that the MNBC Electoral Act be amended to provide clear, unambiguous guidelines for the election appeal process, particularly regarding the timing of appeals during the active voting period. The current language, which implies that appeals are heard post-voting event, leaves room for interpretation that could potentially disrupt the entire voting process. This ambiguity presents a significant risk to the integrity and efficiency of MNBC elections.

Proposed improvements:

1. Clearly define the timeframes for filing appeals:
 - Specify that certain types of appeals (e.g., related to voter eligibility or candidate nominations) must be filed and concluded before the voting period begins.
 - Set a clear deadline for appeals related to the conduct of the election, which should be after the voting period ends but before results are certified.
2. Establish a rapid response mechanism for urgent appeals during the voting period with the Senate:
 - Set strict timelines for reviewing and deciding on these urgent appeals to minimize disruption to the voting process.
3. Clarify the scope of appealable issues:
 - Provide a comprehensive list of what can and cannot be appealed at different stages of the election process.
4. Outline a clear appeals procedure:
 - Detail the steps for filing an appeal, including required documentation at the time of Appeal.
5. Define the potential outcomes of appeals:

- Clearly state what remedies or actions can result from a successful appeal.
- 6. Ensure continuity of the election process:
 - Include provisions that allow the election to proceed while non-critical appeals are being considered.
- 7. Incorporate an education component:
 - Develop materials to educate candidates and voters about the appeal process and its limitations.

Electoral Officer Closing Declaration

As the Chief Electoral Officer for the Métis Nation British Columbia, I hereby declare that the MNBC Election has been conducted in accordance with the MNBC Electoral Act to the best of my knowledge and ability. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the election process, results, and recommendations for future improvements.

I affirm that every effort was made to ensure a fair, transparent, and accessible election for all eligible Métis citizens. The integrity of the voting process was maintained throughout, and all decisions were made impartially and in compliance with the Electoral Act.

While challenges were encountered, particularly in areas highlighted for improvement in this report, they did not compromise the overall validity of the election results. The recommendations provided herein are intended to strengthen and enhance future electoral processes for MNBC.

I extend my gratitude to all who participated in this democratic exercise - the candidates, voters, election officials, and MNBC staff. Your commitment to the democratic process is commendable and essential to the continued growth and success of the Métis Nation British Columbia.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence Lewis, OneFeather
Chief Electoral Officer, Métis Nation British Columbia