



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

MNGA SPRING 2025

MARCH 1-2, 2025

KISHCHEE TEY MO'YAWN AEN LI MICHIF WE'YAWN
PROUD TO BE MÉTIS





MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

AGENDA & MINUTES



MNGA SPRING 2025

March 1-2, 2025

Meeting held Virtually over Zoom

Draft Agenda

Saturday, March 1, 2025

Time		Order of Business
Pacific	Mountain	
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Opening Prayer- Senator Arnold Lucier Opening Remarks – President Walter Mineault MNGA Clerk Confirms Quorum Nomination and Acceptance of MNGA Co-Speakers or Speaker and Deputy Speaker Meeting Called to Order
9:25 AM	10:25	ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PREVIOUS MINUTES <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt Agenda for the Spring 2025 MNGA 2. Adopt Draft Minutes of the 2024 December MNGA
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	APPROVAL OF REPORTS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Report 2. Vice-President Report 3. Secretary Report 4. Treasurer Report 5. Regional Director Reports 6. Métis Women of British Columbia Report 7. Métis Youth of British Columbia Report 8. 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council Report 9. Senate Report 10. Ministerial Reports 11. Community Reports 12. Expenditure Report
9:45 AM	10:45 AM	MOTION 1: Interim Appointments for Region 5 Women’s and Youth Representatives
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	MOTION 2: Interim Appointment for Region 1 Youth Representative
10:15 AM	11:15 AM	MOTION 3: Electoral Act Committee Membership
10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Health Break
10:45 AM	11:45 AM	MNGA Reconvenes MNGA Clerk Confirms Quorum
10:50 AM	11:50 AM	RESOLUTION 1: By-election Timing and Filling Vacancies on Provincial Governance Councils

Time		Order of Business
Pacific	Mountain	
11:25 AM	12:25 PM	PRESENTATION: 2024 ELECTION AND 2025 BYELECTION REVIEW
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Lunch Break
1:00 PM	2:00 PM	MNGA Reconvenes MNGA Clerk Confirms Quorum
1:35 PM	2:35PM	RESOLUTION 2: Citizenship Act Amendments
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	Health Break
3:15 PM	4:15 PM	RESOLUTION 3: Citizenship Act Amendments: Adoption Clause
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Spring 2025 MNGA Adjourns for Day 1

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Time		
Pacific	Mountain	
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	RESOLUTION 4: Ensuring Representation for 2SLGBTQQIA+ Citizens at the MNGA and Regional Governance Councils
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	RESOLUTION 5: Funding for Chartered Communities
10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Health Break
10:45 AM	11:45 AM	RESOLUTION 6: Enhance Transparency and Accountability in MNBC Reporting and Financial Management
11:45 AM	12:45 PM	Closing Prayer – Senator Arnold Lucier
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Spring 2025 MNGA Adjourns

DRAFT MINUTES

Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA), held November 30 - December 1, 2024 by videoconference.

OFFICIAL DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:

Board of Directors

Walter Mineault, President

Melanie Allard, Vice President

Carmen Carriere, Chair, Métis Women of BC (MWBC)

Patrick Harriott, Director, Region 1 (Vancouver Island and Powell River) and Treasurer

Allan Lavallee, Director, Region 2 (Lower Mainland)

Dean Gladue, Director, Region 3 (Thompson Okanagan)

Debra Fisher, Director, Region 4 (Kootenays)

Raynie Gervais, Director, Region 5 (North Central)

Susie Hooper, Director, Region 6 (Northwest)

Paulette Flamond, Director, Region 7 (Northeast)

Jayden Rogers, Vice Chair, Métis Youth of BC (MYBC)

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Region 1 – Vancouver Island

Tom Adams, MIKI'SIW Métis Association

Caitlin Bird, The Métis Nation of Greater Victoria Association

Joy Bremner, Mid Island Métis Nation

June Graham, Alberni Clayoquot Métis Association

Charlotte Lever, North Island Métis Association

Richard Lewis, Cowichan Valley Métis Association

Region 2 – Lower Mainland

Rob Anderson, Vancouver Sea to Sky Métis Association

Kim Finlayson, Golden Ears Métis Society

Anthony Krilow, Surrey Delta Métis Association

Peter Lang, Chilliwack Métis Association

Greg Stanwood, North Fraser Métis Association

Pixie Wells, Fraser Valley Métis Society

Anthony Wingham, Waceya Métis Society

Region 3 – Thompson Okanagan

Dylan Adam, Vermillion Forks Métis Society

David Allard, Salmon Arm Métis Association

Ron Caron, Vernon and District Métis Association (*Jacklyn Senger joined following his departure at 12:29 p.m.*)

Cheryl Dodman, Kelowna Métis Association

Marc Dubord, Two Rivers Métis Society
Jamie-Lee Keith, South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association
Betty Ann McDonnell, Nicola Valley and District Métis Society

Region 4 – Kootenays

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

Region 5 – North Central

Marlene Swears, The Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association

Region 6 – Northwest

Bernadette Chaboyer, Northwest BC Métis Association
Sylvia Desrocher, Prince George Métis Community Association
Vanessa Mueller, Tri River Métis Association

Region 7 – Northeast

Alana Copeland, Fort St. John Métis Society
Betty Deck, Moccasin Flats Métis Society
Valerie Paice, River of Peace Métis Society

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Peltier, MNGA Deputy Speaker
John Bieker, MNGA Clerk
Nicole Ludwig, MNGA Deputy Clerk
Peter Csicsai, Chief Relations Officer
Collette Trudeau, Chief Executive Officer
Sasha Hobbs, Chief Strategy Officer
Marc Riddell, Director of Communications
Brent Weberg, Chief Operating Officer

DAY ONE – November 30, 2024

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND OPENING PRAYER

Joy Bremner acknowledged the traditional territories attendees were joining from and provided an Opening Prayer.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

John Bieker, MNGA Clerk, conducted a roll call and confirmed that a quorum was present.

Dave Peltier, MNGA Deputy Speaker, announced the resignation of Carmen Carriere as MNGA Co-Speaker and that his two-year appointment as MNGA Chair was expiring at the March 2025 MNGA.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE WINTER 2024 MNGA

CALL TO ORDER

The Deputy Speaker called the November 30 – December 1, 2024, MNGA to order at 9:30 a.m. and offered a reminder of the Standing Rules of Order.

1. OPENING REMARKS

MNBC President Walter Mineault welcomed attendees, senior leadership and staff and commented on the importance of the MNGA in the MNBC's governance structure and decision-making process.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Adopt Agenda for 2024 Winter MNGA

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): Draft Agenda for the November 30 – December 1, 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly

The Deputy Speaker reviewed the distributed agenda and confirmed the Assembly can extend the ending time for the meeting as required.

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Jeff Crozier) and SECONDED (Carmen Carriere)

That the Agenda for the Métis Nation British Columbia 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled November 30 - December 1, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Richard Lewis) and SECONDED (Walter Mineault)

That the Agenda be amended to move Resolution #3, "Community Representation at the MNGA", to follow Motion 1, "Relationship with the MNC".

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2404-01)

Question on the Main Resolution as Amended

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

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2404-02)

2.2 Minutes of the 2024 June MNGA

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): Draft Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly held June 1-2, 2024

It was MOVED (Jeff Crozier) and SECONDED (June Graham)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly held June 1-2, 2024, be accepted as presented.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2404-03)

2.3 Minutes of the 2024 October Special MNGA

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): Draft Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia Special Métis Nation Governing Assembly held October 20, 2024

It was MOVED (Jamie-Lee Keith) and SECONDED (June Graham)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia Special Métis Nation Governing Assembly held October 20, 2024, be accepted.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2404-04)

3. MOTION 1: Relationship with Métis National Council (MNC)

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): "Motion 1: Relationship with MNC" submitted by Walter Mineault, MNBC President and dated October 8, 2024

The MNGA Deputy Speaker confirmed that the meeting was being live-streamed and given the nature of the resolution, the Assembly could choose to adjourn to an in-camera meeting. Any resolution to adjourn to an in-camera meeting or close the live-stream, would require a majority vote in favour to be duly ratified.

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed motion, and the two options presented.

To proceed with discussion, the MNGA Clerk acknowledged Walter Mineault as having moved the resolution and Carmen Carriere as having seconded the resolution as presented.

In response to questions raised on a resolution tabled to turn off the live stream, the MNGA Deputy Speaker clarified that should the resolution pass, the live stream would be turned off, regular meeting rules would apply, and individuals with a link to the meeting could continue to observe the discussion. The discussion would not be confidential because the meeting was not in-camera. While regular minutes would be prepared reflecting the outcome of the vote, a transcription of the discussion would not be prepared. A motion would be required to record the discussion in Zoom and make the video available following the meeting.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Opposition to the resolution, given that the live streaming would ensure accountability to citizens
- Support for the resolution, given that the motion was of national importance and as such, turning off the live stream would allow for people to speak freely without worry of slander/libel or being quoted in media and the final votes will be recorded
- The importance of ensuring information is shared from the MNGA, while respecting confidentiality.

It was MOVED (Walter Mineault) and SECONDED (Alana Copeland)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Governing Assembly (MNGA) direct that the live streaming for discussion on Motion 1 be turned off.

CARRIED (MNGA2404-05)

(28 delegates voted in favour, 14 opposed and 1 abstained)

In response to questions on a resolution tabled to adjourn to in-camera, the MNGA Deputy Speaker clarified that if the resolution was approved, the session would be confidential, and the

discussion could not be disclosed to anyone who was not present during the in-camera meeting. A separate set of confidential, in-camera minutes would be prepared and would require approval before they could be disseminated. The motion to adjourn to in-camera could be withdrawn by unanimous consent.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Support for the resolution, given that:
 - It would protect discussion, ensure no comments were taken out of context or quoted out of context, and address concerns about the risk of libel/slander
 - A communiqué coming out of in-camera could be prepared and approved
 - The results of the vote on the Motion 1 would be live streamed for transparency
- Opposition to the resolution, given that:
 - Leadership needs to be accountable to citizens and they should be able to speak carefully
 - The motion is historic and there should be a recording of the meeting for future generations
- Support for the suggestion that the resolution be withdrawn, with an understanding that the meeting will not be recorded.

By unanimous consent, it was agreed that the resolution to adjourn to in-camera would be withdrawn.

It was MOVED (Walter Mineault) and SECONDED (Raynie Gervais)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia MNGA adjourn to in-camera.

WITHDRAWN

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 10:35 a.m. and resumed at 10:50 a.m.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

The Deputy Speaker opened discussion on Motion 1. During discussion attendees offered comments on:

- Support for withdrawing from the MNC, given:
 - Concerns regarding inequity:
 - One Governing Member will have all the decision-making power (the MNBC and Métis Nation of Ontario have five votes, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government have 15 votes) and Métis citizens in BC will not have a voice
 - The MNBC continues to receive 12.5% of the funding under the MNC funding formula
 - Métis citizens in BC must be recognized as equal partners
 - Two Governing Members which previously withdrew from the MNC, destabilized the MNC nationally
 - The MNBC has strong staff and governance structure (Board of Director, Presidents)
 - Legal opinions received by the MNBC provide assurance that the current funding agreements will not be impacted
 - MNBC citizens have expressed support for withdrawing at Town Halls
 - There is a lack of political will at the MNC for the MNBC to have an equal voice/vote

- There is concern that remaining with the MNC will be perceived that the MNBC is “less”
- Leadership shared information with, and sought feedback from citizens, to inform the decision
- The current MNC voting structure and unwillingness to change it is not in the best interest of the MNBC
- That the MNC currently does not have a President, and under the current governance structure, does not have a proper process to elect a new leader
- That the MNBC can negotiate directly with governments, reducing the value-add of the MNC
 - The MNBC negotiated several agreements outside of the MNC structure, including the first stand-alone Early Learning and Childcare Agreement in Canada
- There is trust in the MNBC leaders and staff
- It is time for the MNBC to speak and advocate for itself and build upon its successes
- Senior staff have shared sound, well-reasoned information and legal advice
- Support for remaining a Governing Member of the MNC, given that:
 - Working as a collective is more effective
 - The decision should be deferred until the Section 35 research is completed
 - Concern leadership does not have enough information (e.g., Expert Panel Report and Section 35 research report)
 - Citizens should be able to vote on the motion at a Special General Assembly
 - There are still opportunities to work together
 - The MNBC can choose to stay for now, and reconsider the decision again in the future
 - The MNBC should create a public relations campaign to achieve equality in the MNC
- The value of a public campaign with all Métis citizens to influence change at the MNC
- The importance of publicly discussing MNBC’s position and addressing misinformation
- Recognition that leadership sought feedback from the regions and communities before recommending the motion be presented for consideration
- Concern that some citizens have been experiencing challenges with their MNBC citizenship (e.g., their citizenship card was not accepted, and they were removed from the federal Indigenous business directory)
- Re-establishing strong relationships with First Nations.

In response to delegates questions, comments were offered on:

- Efforts to lobby provincial and federal governments for the recognition of the rights of Métis citizens in BC
- The lack of momentum at the federal level on Accords and in key policy areas due to the departure of MNC Governing Members
- MNBC’s success with securing funding agreements directly with the federal government (e.g., national food program, housing, Section 35 research), which is not tied to the MNC funding formula
 - A comprehensive list of agreements and funding secured can be provided
- Canada’s expressed willingness to move forward with discussions once the Tâpwêwin research report is finalized in March 2025
- The legal opinion provided to the MNBC reflecting that the federal funding agreements will not be impacted by withdrawing from the MNC

- Canada's continued obligation to provide funding to MNBC has been strengthened by a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision dealing with a Quebec First Nation and agreements on police services
- The precedent setting Manitoba Metis Federation Treaty being signed November 30, 2024
 - MNBC cannot speak to its contents until the Treaty is analyzed
- MNBC's status as an Indigenous Governing Body is tied to the Tâpwêwin, it is not tied to withdrawing or staying with the MNC.

Through electronic polling, the decision to proceed to a vote on Motion 1, and resume the live stream was selected.

The MNGA Clerk reviewed the options for voting on the motion. Through electronic polling, the decision to proceed with a poll vote was selected.

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and invited delegates to vote for one of three options: to withdraw from the MNC, to remain as a Governing Member of the MNC or abstain from the vote.

Through electronic polling, the option to withdraw was selected.

It was MOVED (Walter Mineault) and SECONDED (Carmen Carriere)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia withdraw from the Métis National Council.

CARRIED (MNGA2404-06)

(39 delegates voting to withdraw, 3 delegates voting to remain, 3 abstentions)

The following delegates requested that their vote be recorded in favour of withdrawing from the MNC:

- Walter Mineault, President
- David Allard, Salmon Arm Métis Association
- Jeff Crozier, Rocky Mountain Métis Association
- Anthony Wingham, Waceya Métis Society
- June Graham, Alberni Clayoquot Métis Association
- Alana Copeland, Fort St. John Métis Society
- Patrick Harriott, Director, Region 1 (Vancouver Island and Powell River) and Treasurer
- Rob Anderson, Vancouver Sea to Sky Métis Association
- Jayden Rogers, Vice Chair, Métis Youth of BC (MYBC)
- Allan Lavallee, Director, Region 2 (Lower Mainland)
- Cheryl Dodman, Kelowna Métis Association
- Richard Lewis, Cowichan Valley Métis Association
- Tom Adams, MIKI'SIW Métis Association
- Greg Stanwood, North Fraser Métis Association
- Kim Finlayson, Golden Ears Métis Society
- Dylan Adam, Vermillion Forks Métis Society
- Melanie Allard, Vice President
- Debra Fisher, Director, Region 4 (Kootenays)
- Carmen Carriere, Chair, Métis Women of BC (MWBC)

- Raynie Gervais, Director, Region 5 (North Central)
- Joy Bremner, Mid Island Métis Nation
- Jamie-Lee Keith, South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association
- Marlene Swears, The Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association
- Charlotte Lever, North Island Métis Association
- Nicole Courson, President, West Kootenay Métis Society

The following delegates requested that their vote be recorded in favour of remaining as a Governing Member of the MNC:

- Caitlin Bird, The Métis Nation of Greater Victoria
- Sylvia Desrocher, Prince George Métis Community Association

The following delegates requested that their vote be recorded as an abstention:

- Pixie Wells, Fraser Valley Métis Society
- Anthony Krilow, Surrey Delta Métis Association

Ron Caron, Vernon and District Métis Association (VDMA), requested that the vote reflect the VDMA was in support of remaining as a Governing Member of the MNC, but he was personally in favour of withdrawing.

Health Break

The MNGA recessed at 12:29 p.m. and reconvened at 1:29 p.m.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

6. RESOLUTION 3 – Community Representation at the MNGA

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): “Resolution 3 – Community Representation at the MNGA” submitted by Cowichan Valley Métis and dated October 16, 2024

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. At least 75% of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- The intention of the resolution to allow for community representation when a President or Vice President was unable to attend the MNGA
- The resolution facilitating the development of future Presidents (succession planning)
- The option for community representation at an MNGA being a previously approved practice.

It was MOVED (Richard Lewis) and SECONDED (Jamie-Lee Keith)

WHEREAS:

1. It is critical for the Métis Nation Governing Assembly’s (MNGA’s) governing structure to have Chartered Community representation present to conduct business and safeguard engagement in decision making processes;

2. Article 3.2 of the *MNGA Act* allows for a Community's Vice President to attend the MNGA when the Community President is unable to; and
3. When neither the President nor the Vice-President are able to attend an MNGA, the Community has no representation since no one else may attend the MNGA on behalf of the Community;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The following be added as a new sub-article (a) to Article 3.2 of the *MNGA Act*:
 - a) In the event that neither the President nor the Vice President can attend the MNGA, the Community Board may, by resolution, appoint an elected Board member to attend, provided that they are a MNBC Citizen and over the age of 18:
 - i. The Community shall notify the MNGA Clerk, or designate, as far in advance as possible of the meeting;
 - ii. The Board member serving as an alternate must make a declaration with the MNGA Clerk, its designate, affirming that they are not in a Conflict of Interest as per Article 2.8 of the *MNGA Act*.
- B. The underlined text be added to Article 29.1 of the *Constitution*, as set out below:

In the event a Community President is unable to attend a General Assembly, the Community's Vice-President may represent that Community. In the event that neither the President nor the Vice President can attend the MNGA, the Community Board may, by resolution, appoint an elected Board member to attend, provided that they are a MNBC Citizen over the age of 18.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE (MNGA2404-07)

The MNGA Clerk confirmed an abstention vote is treated as a null vote and does not have any impact on the vote.

4. RESOLUTION 1 – MNGA Governance Committee Membership

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): "Resolution 1 – MNBC Governance Committee Membership" submitted by the MNGA Governance Committee and dated October 24, 2024

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution.

It was MOVED (Caitlin Bird) and SECONDED (Pixie Wells)

WHEREAS:

1. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) Governance Committee was created by the MNGA in 2023 to review the governance and decision-making structures within MNBC and the MNGA;
2. The current membership includes representatives from the MNBC Board, Regional representatives appointed by the Regional Governance Councils, and representatives from the Métis Women BC and Métis Youth BC;

3. The 2SLGBTQQA+ Provincial Governance Council was created at the 2024 MNBC Annual General Meeting; and
4. All governance entities of MNBC should have an opportunity to provide input into governance processes;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA change the membership of the MNGA Governance Committee by adding “One MNBC Citizen member designated by the 2SLGBTQQA+ Provincial Governance Council”; and
- B. Subject to approval of A, above, the words “the 2SLGBTQQA+ Provincial Governance Council”, be added to the “Appointment” section of the MNGA Governance Committee Terms of Reference, following the word “Committees” so it shall read as follows:

The Respective Regional Governance Councils, the MWBC and MYBC Provincial Committees, the 2SLGBTQQA+ Provincial Governance Council, and the Board of Directors will select their representative to the MNGA Governance Committee.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2404-08)

5. RESOLUTION 2 – Time Extension for MNGA Governance Committee

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): “Resolution 2 – Extension of Timeline for Report Back by MNGA Governance Timeline” submitted by the MNGA Governance Committee and dated October 24, 2024

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Appendix A to the resolution, providing the 2023 MNGA Resolution to refer the consideration of adding the MWBC and MYBC Regional Representatives to the Governance Committee
- The intention of the resolution, to allow for an extension of time to provide a report back to the MNGA
- A suggestion that the consultation process with citizens referenced in the resolution, include the role and purpose of the Senate.

It was MOVED (David Allard) and SECONDED (Caitlin Bird)

WHEREAS:

1. At the June 2023, Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA), the Assembly requested the MNGA Governance Committee to take the actions outlined in the resolution attached as Appendix A, with a report back to the MNGA for the March (Spring) 2025 MNGA;
2. The MNGA Governance Committee has been working on other urgent matters, including a substantial revision to the *MNGA Act*, including enhancing the processes for conflict of interest, as well as approving funding models, and other matters referred to them by the MNGA; and
3. At its meeting in October, 2024, the MNGA Governance Committee decided that not enough time remains to conduct meaningful consultation with Citizens for a report back in Spring 2025;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Part C of the previously-adopted resolution (Appendix A) be amended by striking out “March 2025” and inserting “Spring 2026” in its place.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2404-09)

7. RESOLUTION 4 – AGM Voting Expansion and Inclusivity

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): “Resolution 4 – AGM Voting Expansion and Inclusivity” submitted by Two Rivers Métis Society and dated October 20, 2024

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. At least 75% of the eligible voting delegates needed to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- The intent of the resolution to expand the time for voting and increase opportunities for citizens to vote on resolutions
- Concern with the proposed deadline of 11:59 p.m. adding significant hours to an Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- The value of in-person debate and discussion to inform decision making
- Opposition to the resolution given that:
 - Citizens may feel that voting at AGM is redundant given that an MNGA and town halls are scheduled in advance
 - Voting after an AGM has concluded will disadvantage in-person delegates travelling home
 - It would create capacity issues and added costs with a significant increase in the number of participants
 - The voting results could be more easily manipulated by allowing an electronic voting process after the AGM ends
 - If approved, the resolution would result in a governance by referendum process
- The current hybrid meeting process, which allows for participants to join virtually and vote on resolutions.

The MNGA Speaker clarified that under the *Societies Act*, the hours must be clearly stated when an organization allows for votes on matters outside of the set hours of an AGM. If the resolution was approved, the AGM would proceed as normal, with voting on resolutions open for a specified time block outside of the in-person meeting hours.

In response to a question, it was noted that voting on resolutions in advance an AGM or Special General Meeting would not be permissible given that amendments to resolutions from the floor are allowed.

It was MOVED (Marc Dubord) and SECONDED (Cheryl Dodman)

WHEREAS:

1. The 2024 General Election of Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) saw 12.1% voter turnout, with 2,661 ballots cast from a voting population of 22,000, with the assistance of mail-in and electronic ballot voting;

2. At the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM), between 99 to 170 votes were collected per resolution, from both in-person and virtual participants in attendance, or approximately 0.4 to 0.8% of the Citizens eligible to vote at the AGM participating;
3. MNBC sponsors two (2) citizens per Chartered Community, seven (7) senators, and eleven (11) board members (12, following the election of the 2SLGBTQQA+ Provincial Chairperson), and the seven (7) Regional Representatives from MWBC, MYBC, and the 2SLGBTQQA+ (following their election), to attend the AGM, for a minimum of one hundred-and-eighteen (118) sponsored attendees (2x39+7+12+21), not including MNBC staff who may be citizens;
4. The established process under which business is conducted, and resolutions are voted on at Annual General Meetings does not provide flexibility for Citizens to participate; and
5. It is pivotal to ensure that the AGM is accessible for all citizens by reducing attendance barriers to support flexible participation in MNBC's democracy;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The *Constitution* be amended as follows:

- A. A new Article 71 to be inserted under the Section of "Annual General Meeting" which states: "71. Resolutions considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be debated during the meeting, and vote postponed be voted on by electronic means, between 6:00 PM and 11:59 PM on the final day of the Annual General Meeting, following adjournment."; and
- B. The Article numbers impacted be renumbered accordingly;

FURTHER THAT the MPCBC Bylaws be amended as follows:

- C. Insert a new Article 3.11 as follows:

3.11 Pursuant to Article 84 of the Societies Act, changes to legislation shall be conducted by an electronic ballot or voting system, between 6:00 PM (Pacific Time) and 11:59 PM (Pacific Time), following the adjournment of the AGM or SGM.

And renumber the Bylaws accordingly.

DEFEATED

(2 delegates voted in favour, 39 opposed and 0 abstentions)

CLOSING COMMENTS

President Mineault extended thanks to the Co-Chairs, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and staff for their efforts in organizing the MNGA and acknowledged the historic and important decisions made to move the MNBC forward. President Mineault committed to ensuring transparent communications to leadership and communities on the decision to withdraw from the MNC.

CONCLUSION

The MNBC MNGA scheduled November 30 - December 1, 2024, concluded on November 30, 2024, at 2:55 p.m. Betty Ann McDonnell offered a closing prayer.

* * * * *

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the MNBC 2024 MNGA held November 30 – December 1, 2024 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.

Dave Peltier, MNGA Deputy Speaker

Nicole Ludwig, MNGA Clerk

* * *

LIST OF APPENDICES

The following items are attached to these minutes, or may be requested through the MNGA Clerk:

Appendix A: Referenced in “Resolution 2 – Extension of Timeline for Report Back by MNGA Governance Committee”



MNGA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

RR2. SUBMITTED TO THE JUNE 2023 MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: Recommendation for a Governance Review of the MNBC
Legislation Affected: n/a
Submitted by: MNGA Governance Committee
Submitted to: MNGA Clerk
Date Submitted: May 4, 2023
Vote Required for Approval: Majority

WHEREAS

1. The resolution titled "MNGA Membership: Addition of MWBC and MYBC Regional Representatives" ("Resolution 7") was referred to the MNGA Governance Committee at the March 2023 MNGA for further study and a report and recommendations back at the June 2023 MNGA;
2. In its discussions on Resolution 7, the MNGA Governance Committee realized that the current governance structure of the MNGA is two decades old and may not adequately serve current and future needs of the MNBC;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The MNGA Governance Committee, with the assistance and support of the MNBC, undertake a review of the governance structure of the MNBC, including extensive consultations with Citizens; and
- B. A report summarizing the consultation sessions, including suggested changes to the MNBC governance structure (if any), be provided to the MNGA Governance Committee by the end of 2024; and
- C. This report, with any recommendations from the MNGA Governance Committee, be presented at the March 2025 MNGA.



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS





MOTION 1

SUBMITTED TO THE SPRING 2025
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: Interim Appointments for Region 5 Women and Youth Representatives

Legislation Affected: N/A

Submitted by: Region 5 Director, in consultation with the Region 5 Regional Governance Council

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: January 17, 2025

Vote Required for Approval: Majority

WHEREAS

1. The Métis Nation British Columbia General Elections conducted in 2024 and the By-Elections in 2025 did not yield any candidates for the Region 5 Women's and Youth Representative positions.
2. The Region 5 Community Leaders engaged in community consultation and recruitment to fill the Regional Women's and Youth Representative positions.
3. In accordance with Article 13.2 of the MNGA Act and Article 47.4 of the Constitution, Regional Governance Councils (RGCs) may recommend candidates to the MNGA to fill the vacancies of regional representatives.
4. On January 16, 2025, the Region 5 RGC met and approved recommendations for the Regional Women and Youth positions.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The MNGA appoints Denza Phung (preferred name: Marcel) as the Region 5 Youth Representative, as per Region 5 Regional Governance Council's recommendation.
- B. The MNGA appoints Dawna Short as the Region 5 Women's Representative, as per Region 5 Regional Governance Council's recommendation.



MOTION 2

SUBMITTED TO THE 2025 SPRING
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: Interim Appointment for Region 1 Youth Representatives

Legislation Affected: *N/A*

Submitted by: Region 1 Director, in consultation with the Region 1 Regional Governance Council

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: January 22, 2025

Vote Required for Approval: Majority

WHEREAS

1. The Métis Nation British Columbia General Elections conducted in 2024 and the By-Elections in 2025 did not yield any candidates for the Region 1 Youth Representative position.
2. The Region 1 Community Leaders engaged in community consultation and recruitment to fill the Youth Representative position.
3. In accordance with Article 13.2 of the MNGA Act and Article 47.4 of the Constitution, Regional Governance Councils (RGCs) may recommend candidates to the MNGA to fill the vacancies of regional representatives.
4. On January 21, 2025, the Region 1 RGC met and approved a recommendation for the Regional Youth position.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The MNGA appoints Seone Anderson as the Region 1 Youth Representative, as per Region 1 Regional Governance Council's recommendation.



MOTION 3

SUBMITTED TO THE 2025 SPRING
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: *Electoral Act* Committee Membership

Legislation Affected: n/a

Submitted by: 2SLGBTQQIA+ Chairperson in consultation with the *Electoral Act* Committee

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: January 20, 2025

Vote Required for Approval: Majority

WHEREAS

1. The *Electoral Act* Committee was created by the MNGA in 2021 to review the governance and decision-making structures within MNBC and the MNGA;
2. The current membership includes representatives from the MNBC Board, Regional representatives appointed by the Regional Governance Councils, and representatives from the Métis Women BC and Métis Youth BC;
3. The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council was created at the 2024 MNBC Annual General Meeting;
4. All governance entities of MNBC should have an opportunity to provide input into the *Electoral Act*.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The MNGA change the membership of the *Electoral Act* Committee by adding “One MNBC Citizen member designated by the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council”.
- B. Subject to approval of A, above, the words “2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council, be added to the “Appointment” section of the *Electoral Act* Committee Terms of Reference, following the word “Committees” so it shall read as follows:

The Respective Regional Governance Councils, the MWBC and MYBC Provincial Committees, the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council, and the Board of Directors will select their representative to the *Electoral Act* Committee.



RESOLUTION 1

SUBMITTED TO THE 2025 SPRING
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: By-election Timing and Filling Vacancies on MWBC, MYBC, and the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Councils

Legislation Affected: *Constitution; MPCBC Bylaws*

Submitted by: MNBC Board of Directors

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: December 9, 2024

Vote Required for Approval: 75%

WHEREAS

1. If vacant seats on the MNBC Board, MWBC, MYBC, or the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council remain after an election, the *Constitution* requires that a by-election be called within 120 days of the date of that vacancy;
2. 120 days is a short time period to take all the steps necessary to meet the other deadlines, set out in the *Electoral Act*, including convening the MNGA to set an election date and preparing materials to ensure the by-election is run properly;
3. Discrepancies in legislation must be rectified;
4. It is important that MWBC, MYBC, and the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council have all positions filled;
5. The *Constitution* and the *Electoral Act* are silent on the process that occurs after a by-election is held and vacancies in Regional Representative positions remain, which could lead to ongoing by-elections at a substantial cost MNBC.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. Article 47 of the *Constitution* be amended by striking the words “one hundred and twenty (120)” and inserting the words “one hundred and eighty (180) in their place.
- B. Insert the underlined words in Article 47.4 of the *Constitution*, as set out below:
 - 47.4. In the case of any other vacancy on the Board of Directors, an interim Director, as selected by the RGC will be recommended to the MNGA by the Board of

Directors and if approved by the MNGA, the vacancy shall be filled by the interim Director. In the case of a vacancy in a position of a MWBC Regional Representative or MYBC Regional Representative, an interim Representative will be recommended to the MNGA by the respective RGC, and if approved by the MNGA, the vacancy shall be filled by the interim representative. In the case of a vacancy on the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Regional Representative, an interim Representative will be recommended to the MNGA by the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council in consultation with the relevant Regional Governance Council. An interim Director or Representative shall be subject to Article 45 of the Constitution.

- C. The following be added as a new article before Article 48 of the *Constitution*:

If a vacancy remains in any Regional Representative position for MWBC, MYBC, or the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council following a by-election to fill vacancies that were not filled in the original election, a recommendation to fill the position(s) until the end of the current term will be submitted to the MNGA for approval, as set out in Article 47.4.

- D. All Articles in the *Constitution* be renumbered as appropriate.

- E. Article 10.1 of the *Electoral Act* be amended by deleting the struck-through text and inserting the underlined text as set out below:

If, after the close of nominations there are offices that remain without Candidates or without persons elected by acclamation, the Chief Electoral Officer shall set another day for the receipt of nominations for the remaining offices subject to available funding. Nominations shall be received for a an Election by-election to be held no earlier than three (3) months and no later than 180 days ~~no earlier than three (3) months and no later than six (6) months~~ from the date of the original Election and shall follow the processes and rules set out in this *Electoral Act*.

- (a) If a vacancy remains in any Regional Representative position for MWBC, MYBC, or the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council following a by-election to fill vacancies that were not filled in the original election, a recommendation to fill the position(s) until the end of the current term will be submitted to the MNGA for approval, as set out in Article 47.4 of the *Constitution*.

- F. Article 4.11 of the MPCBC Bylaws be amended by striking “one hundred and twenty (120)” and insert “one hundred and eighty (180)” in its place.



RESOLUTION 2

SUBMITTED TO THE SPRING 2025
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: *Citizenship Act* Amendments

Legislation Affected: *Citizenship Act*

Submitted by: MNBC Board of Directors

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: December 9, 2024

Vote Required for Approval: 75%

WHEREAS

1. Some of the language in the *Citizenship Act* is inconsistent and unclear, and so does not completely serve the needs of Citizens and those applying for Citizenship;
2. The Ministry of Citizenship staffing and practices have evolved and a general review of the *Citizenship Act* is necessary to ensure that legislation aligns with current practices;
3. Legislation must be regularly reviewed to ensure consistency and clarity.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The *Citizenship Act* be amended as follows:

- A. Strike the following definitions:
 - i. 2.20 “Registration”
 - ii. 2.26 “Registered”
- B. Amend the following definitions as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:
 - i. “**Appeal**” or “**Appeals**” means a written document submitted by: an Applicant who has been rejected entry in the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizen Registry, ~~a Métis Nation British Columbia Citizen who is objecting to the registration of any Applicant to the Métis Nation British Columbia Central Registry,~~ or a person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six of this Act;
 - ii. “**Applicant**” means an individual who applies for a ~~Provincial~~ MNBC Citizenship Card by filing the necessary documentation with the ~~Citizenship Authority~~ Ministry of Citizenship.

- iii. **“Application”** means the ~~Provincial~~ MNBC Citizenship Standardized Application Form provided by MNBC through the Ministry of Citizenship or on the MNBC website.
- iv. **“Citizenship Authority”** (the “Authority”) means the office in the Ministry of Citizenship which processes, assesses, ensures Chartered Community acceptance is approved within the required timeframe, and issues citizenship cards. The Authority consists of:
 - The Executive Director of Citizenship
 - The Director of Citizenship
 - The ~~Citizenship Assessment~~ Indigenous Research Manager
- v. ~~“Métis”~~ or “Citizen” means a Métis Citizen as defined by the *Constitution*.
- vi. **“Under Review”** means a citizen whose Citizenship is currently being reviewed by the Citizenship Authority following an audit of the Citizen Registry. ~~means a previously registered Citizen whose Citizenship is currently being reviewed by the Citizenship Authority following an audit or review of the Central Registry.~~

C. Insert definitions as follows:

“Application Process” means the process to receive Applications and determine Métis Citizenship, outlined in Article 4 of this *Act*, and that is operationalized, maintained, and updated from time to time by the Ministry of Citizenship.

“Ministry of Citizenship” means the Ministry at MNBC that promotes Metis Citizenship in British Columbia and supports people who self-identify as Metis through the citizenship application process, while ensuring integrity of the Registry.

D. Amend Article 3.1 as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:

3.1 The MNBC shall accept an application for ~~citizenship~~ Citizenship upon the Applicant providing to the ~~Citizenship Authority~~ Ministry of Citizenship a written ~~application~~ Application together with sufficient Genealogical evidence which, if accepted by the Citizenship Authority, is proof that the Applicant is of Métis ancestry, and that the Applicant complies with the following conditions:

E. Amend the title and certain parts of Article Four as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:

ARTICLE FOUR – ~~REGISTRATION~~ APPLICATION PROCESS

- 4.1 An individual is entitled to apply for Métis Citizenship by submitting an ~~application~~ Application directly to the Ministry of Citizenship or through a Métis Chartered Community; ~~An individual is entitled to make application for registration as a Métis Citizen by making application to the MNBC or to a Chartered Community;~~
- 4.2 Upon approval ~~of registration~~, the Citizenship Authority shall issue a ~~Provincial~~ MNBC Citizenship Card recognizing the Applicant as a Métis Citizen;
- 4.3 The parent or guardian of a child under nineteen (19) years of age may ~~apply for registration~~ on behalf of the child;
- 4.4 The guardian of an individual who is under a mental or legal disability may ~~apply for registration~~ on behalf of that individual;
- 4.6 The Applicant must provide the Ministry of Citizenship with the necessary supporting documentation, as described in the Application Process for the Applicant to be considered for Métis Citizenship. ~~In the case of an application for registration, the Applicant must provide the Citizenship Authority with genealogy and the supporting documentation necessary to validate and verify that the Applicant is Métis;~~
- 4.7 The Citizenship Authority shall provide final review of complete Applications ~~applications for Métis Citizenship registration and approve the application~~ shall register an Applicant as a Métis only if the Applicant is eligible ~~entitled to be registered as a Métis Citizen pursuant to the provisions of this Act.~~
- ii. ~~Upon completion of the Métis Nation acceptance process; and~~
- iii. ~~The application~~ Application ~~fulfills all the requirements of the Application Process is properly made.~~
- F. Delete Article 4.8 entirely.
- G. Amend Articles 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 as indicated by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:
- 5.1 An MNBC Citizen may, at any time, voluntarily remove themselves from the Citizen Registry;
- 5.2 The Citizenship Authority shall remove an MNBC Citizen who, by written request, declares that they no longer wish to be ~~registered as~~ an MNBC Citizen;

- 5.3 An MNBC Citizen who has removed themselves from the Registry may re-apply upon following the application procedure for becoming an MNBC Citizen, as set out in this Act.~~may re-apply for Registration upon following the procedure for Registration as a Métis Citizen as set out in this Act.~~
- H. Amend Articles 6.5 and 6.6 as indicated by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:
- 6.5 A person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six may re-apply for MNBC Citizenship by completing the Application Process. ~~may re-apply for Registration upon following the procedure for Registration as a Métis Citizen as set out in this Act.~~
- 6.6 A person who is placed under review by the Citizenship Authority is not eligible to apply for any further supports, programs, or funding through MNBC until their ~~citizenship~~ Citizenship has been reaffirmed. A person currently receiving supports will continue to receive them for at least sixty (60) days following the notice sent by the Citizenship Authority. This time frame can be extended, by request of the person under review, by a further ninety (90) days.
- ~~i. Extension requests are granted at the discretion of the responsible program director. A negative decision can be appealed within thirty (30) days to the MNBC Board, who can overturn the decision by a majority vote.~~
- I. Amend the title and certain parts of Article Seven as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:

ARTICLE SEVEN – ~~CENTRAL~~ CITIZEN REGISTRY

- 7.1 The Ministry of Citizenship shall maintain an objectively verifiable uniform system for ~~the processing of Metis Citizenship Applications; Registration of Métis Citizens;~~
- 7.2 The Ministry of Citizenship shall collect and maintain the information necessary to determine ~~registration~~ Citizenship eligibility; the information to be collected is listed on the MNBC Citizenship Application Package and updated from time to time.
- 7.3 The Ministry of Citizenship may collect and ~~register~~ maintain additional demographic information about Métis Citizens as, in the Ministry of Citizenship's sole discretion, is deemed necessary and/or expedient;
- 7.7 Applicants may apply for Citizenship by written Application through a Chartered Community, ~~a regional registry clerk,~~ or directly to the Ministry of Citizenship ~~Métis Nation British Columbia registry;~~

- 7.8 ~~Application~~ Applications may shall be submitted by a the Chartered Community of the MNBC and/or the Regional Registry Clerk to the Ministry of Citizenship on behalf of the applicant for consideration and entry into the Central Registry;
- 7.10 An Applicant, ~~having applied for Citizenship directly to the MNBC and~~ whose Application the Citizenship Authority approves, shall be issued a Provincial an MNBC Citizenship Card by the Central Registry Ministry of Citizenship; ~~and forwarded directly to the Applicant;~~
- J. Strike Article 7.11 because its purpose is covered in 7.10.
- K. Strike the title “ARTICLE EIGHT – REGISTRY OFFICE” because its purpose is covered by Article Seven.

Note: the following Sections of the Citizenship Act referenced below are the sections enumerated in the Act as ratified in September 2023. The final resolution will allow for reordering and renumbering all definitions, sections, and subsections, as appropriate.

- L. Amend Article 9 as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:
- 9.2 Receive and review applications for citizenship submitted by an Applicant on the ~~Provincial~~ MNBC Standardized Citizenship Application Forms and shall render a decision whether a person is entitled to be a Métis Citizen. ~~registered pursuant to this Act;~~
- 9.5 Maintain the ~~Central~~ Citizen Registry in a suitable and proper manner;
- 9.6 Provide a written decision to the Applicant ~~and/or Chartered Community,~~ as may be appropriate under the circumstances concerning an application;
- 9.9 Applicants whose applications are not approved for Citizenship ~~by the Central Registry~~ may appeal such decision to the Senate;
- M. Delete Articles 9.8 and 9.12 entirely.
- N. Strike all remaining instances of the following words and phrases, and insert the words and phrases indicated throughout the *Citizenship Act* in their places:

Strike	Insert
Registry	Citizen Registry
Central Registry	
Provincial MNBC Card	MNBC Citizenship Card

Provincial Citizenship Card	
citizenship	Citizenship

- O. Reorganize and renumber all definitions so that they are in alphabetical order, renumber all Articles and sub-Articles as appropriate, and make all consequential changes necessary within Articles due to renumbering.

Explanation Summary: Citizenship Act Amendments

A.	Removes various definitions	The definitions are either not used, inaccurate, or could lead to potential conflict with aspects of Citizenship.
B.	Amends various definitions	Provides clarity by reducing simplifying definitions, ensuring consistent language use throughout the <i>Act</i> , and provides for a change in the Citizenship Authority since the title of “Citizenship Assessment Manager” has been replaced operationally with “Indigenous Research Manager”.
C.	Adds new definition	New definition replaces “registration” with “Application” and allows for Ministry of Citizenship to operationalize the Application Process.
D.	Changes “Citizenship Authority” to “Ministry of Citizenship”	Clarifies that Applications for Citizenship are received by the Ministry of Citizenship; makes specific reference to the definitions of “Application” in the <i>Act</i> . Capitalizing “Citizenship” is a practice sustained by MNBC when referring to Métis Citizenship.
E.	Amends article 4	Requires that an Applicant for Citizenship uses the MNBC Citizenship Form regardless of method of application; clarifies and ensures consistent use of language; eliminates duplication.
F.	Deletes article 4.5 and 4.8	4.5 and 4.8 are not necessary
G.	Amends Article 5	Clarifies procedure for reapplication after self-removal and ensures consistency of language throughout the <i>Act</i> .
H.	Amends Articles 6.5 and 6.6	Clarifies procedure for reapplication after revocation of Citizenship. Removes Article 6.6(i) because extension requests for program funding should be policy decided by the Ministry owning the program.
I.	Amends Article Seven	Changes Central Registry to Citizen Registry. Central Registry is a term left over from when Citizenship applications were handled regionally. Other wording changes clarify language, ensure consistent use of language, and eliminates duplication.
J, K	Deletes Article 7.11 and Article Eight	The purpose of these articles is covered in other areas; this change reduces duplication.
L.	Amends part of article 9	Ensures consistent use of language throughout the <i>Act</i> .
M.	Deletes Articles 9.8 and 9.12	These are redundant.
N, O	Blanket amendments to correct language, numbering, etc.	Ensures consistent use of language throughout the <i>Act</i> .

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



MÉTIS NATION

BRITISH COLUMBIA

MÉTIS NATION CITIZENSHIP ACT

AS RATIFIED SEPTEMBER 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





ARTICLE ONE – TITLE

1.01 This Act may be cited as "The Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act"

ARTICLE TWO – INTERPRETATION

2.1 In this Act:

2.2 “**Act**” means the *Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act*.

2.3 “**Adoption**” Act of transferring parental rights and duties to someone other than the adopted person's biological parents by means of a statutory adoption or a customary Métis adoption.

2.4 “**Adopted Métis Citizen**” A Métis Citizen that has acquired their Métis Citizenship as per Article ~~12~~11 of the MNBC Citizenship Act.

2.5 “**Appeal**” or “**Appeals**” means a written document submitted by: an Applicant who has been rejected entry in the Métis Nation British Columbia ~~Central Registry, a Métis Nation British Columbia Citizen who is objecting to the registration of any Applicant to the Métis Nation British Columbia Central~~Citizen Registry, or a person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six of this Act;

2.6 “**Applicant**” means an individual who applies for a ~~Provincial~~MNBC Citizenship Card by filing the necessary documentation with the Ministry of Citizenship ~~Authority~~.

~~2.7~~ “**Application**” means the ~~Provincial~~MNBC Citizenship Standardized Application Form provided by MNBC through the Ministry of Citizenship or on the MNBC website.

~~2.7~~2.8 “**Application Process**” means the process to receive Applications and determine Métis Citizenship, outlined in Article 4 of this *Act*, and that is operationalized, maintained, and updated from time to time by the Ministry of Citizenship.

~~2.8~~2.9 A “**Chartered Community**” is a Métis Community that has entered into a Community Governance Charter agreement with the MNBC.

~~2.9~~2.10 “**Child**” means a child of a Métis citizen.

~~2.10~~2.11 “**Citizenship Appeal Committee**” means the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Appeal Committee as established and maintained by the Senate.

~~2.11~~2.12 “**Citizenship Authority**” (the “**Authority**”) means the office in the Ministry of Citizenship which processes, assesses, ensures Chartered Community acceptance is approved within the required timeframe, and issues citizenship cards. The Authority consists of:

- The Executive Director of Citizenship
- The Director of Citizenship
- The ~~Citizenship Assessment~~Indigenous Research Manager



2.122.13 “**Community Governance Charter**” means the written document that shall set out the terms of the relationship between a Chartered Community and the MNBC.

2.132.14 “**Constitution**” means the *Constitution* of the Métis Nation British Columbia as amended from time to time.

2.142.15 “**Customary Adoption**” An adoption that is consistent with the historical and customary practices of the Métis Nation which has occurred at an early age by an immediate or extended family member.

2.152.16 “**Extended Family Member**” Is a grandparent, uncle, aunt, cousin, nephew and/or niece that is a Métis Citizen or is eligible for Métis citizenship as per the *MNBC Citizenship Act*.

2.162.17 “**Genealogical Evidence**” means evidence which indicates proof that an Applicant’s parent is, or parents are, of Métis Ancestry and that the Applicant is Métis and which can be verified by an objective and valid process.

2.172.18 “**Historical and Customary Practices**” The traditional undertaking of privately arranged adoption **between** a Métis Citizen’s family and another aboriginal family.

2.182.19 “**Immediate Family Member**” Is a parent (mother/father), child (son/daughter) or sibling (sister/brother) that is a Métis Citizen or is eligible for Métis citizenship as per the *MNBC Citizenship Act*.

2.192.20 “**Legislation**” means legislative documents or acts pursuant to which the administrative affairs and constitutional requirements of the MNBC shall be carried out.

~~2.1 — “Registration” means citizenship in the MNBC.~~

2.202.21 ~~“Métis” or~~ “**Citizen**” means a Métis Citizen as defined by the *Constitution*.

2.212.22 “**Métis Nation Governing Assembly**” (MNGA) means the legislative authority of the Métis Nation British Columbia as set out in the *Constitution*.

2.222.23 “**Métis Nation British Columbia**” (MNBC) means the organization previously known as the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia which represents and is comprised of the Métis Citizens of British Columbia and which is governed by the provisions of the *Constitution* which is also the *Constitution* of the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia.

2.232.24 “**Métis Nation British Columbia**” (MNBC) means the governing body with the secretariat known as the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia, which represents and is comprised of the Métis citizens of British Columbia and which is governed by the provision of the *Constitution*.

2.242.25 “~~Provincial~~ **MNBC Citizenship Card**” means the identification card that shall be issued by the Citizenship Authority to all Métis Citizens who have had their Genealogy and supporting documentation validated and verified by the Office of the Citizenship Authority.



~~2.2 — “Registration” means Citizenship in the MNBC.~~

~~2.25~~2.26 — **“Citizen Registry”** means the data and systems used by the Ministry of Citizenship to gather and store information about Métis Citizens.

~~2.26~~2.27 — **“Statutory Adoption”** An adoption that is granted under the authority of provincial and/or territorial government legislation.

~~2.27~~2.28 — **“Supporting Documentation”** is defined as records used to support an application for Citizenship, including Vital events records, historical records, church records, archival records, and census records.

~~2.3 — “Registered” means registered as a Métis Citizen under this Act.~~

~~2.28~~2.29 — **“Under Review”** means a ~~previously registered~~ Citizen whose ~~citizenship~~Citizenship is currently being reviewed by the Citizenship Authority following an audit ~~or review~~ of the ~~Central~~Citizen Registry.”

ARTICLE THREE – MÉTIS NATION ACCEPTANCE

3.1 The MNBC shall accept an application for citizenship upon Applicant providing to the Ministry of ~~Citizenship Authority~~ a written application together with sufficient Genealogical evidence which, if accepted by the Citizenship Authority, is proof that the Applicant is of Métis ancestry, and that the Applicant complies with the following conditions:

3.1.1 The Applicant normally resides within the Chartered Community area and the jurisdiction of the MNBC; and

3.1.2 The Applicant expressly holds themselves out to be Métis in the Chartered Community and/or within the jurisdiction of the MNBC;

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

3.3 The Citizenship Authority shall provide a list of new Citizens to their respective Communities on a monthly basis, unless operational circumstances prevent that from happening, and in such a case the list of new Citizens must be provided by the end of the following month

ARTICLE FOUR —~~REGISTRATION~~ APPLICATION PROCESS

4.1 An individual is entitled to ~~make application~~apply for ~~registration as a Métis Citizen~~Citizenship by ~~making applications~~submitting an Application directly to the ~~MNBC~~Ministry of Citizenship or ~~through~~ a Métis Chartered Community;

4.2 Upon approval ~~of registration~~, the Citizenship Authority shall issue a ~~Provincial~~MNBC Citizenship Card recognizing the Applicant as a Métis Citizen.



4.3 The parent or guardian of a child under nineteen (19) years of age may apply ~~for registration~~ on behalf of the child;

4.4 The guardian of an individual who is under a mental or legal disability may apply ~~for registration~~ on behalf of that individual;

~~4.1 — No individual is obliged to apply for registration;~~

4.5 ~~In the case of an application for registration, the~~ The Applicant must provide the Ministry of Citizenship Authority with genealogy and the necessary supporting documentation necessary to validate and verify that the, as described in the Application Process, in order for the Applicant isto be considered for Métis Citizenship;

~~4.2 — The Citizenship Authority shall provide final review applications of complete Applications for registration Métis Citizenship and shall register and approve the application only if the Applicant as a Métis only if:~~

4.6 The Applicant is entitled eligible to be ~~registered as a~~ Métis Citizen pursuant to the provisions of this Act;

~~a) — Upon completion of the Métis Nation acceptance process; and~~

~~b) — The application is properly made.~~

~~4.3 — The Citizenship Authority shall establish and implement a process to seek out and encourage the application for registration of all qualified individuals who are entitled to be registered as Métis Citizens.~~

ARTICLE FIVE — VOLUNTARY REMOVAL FROM REGISTRY

5.1 A Métis Citizen may, at any time, voluntarily remove themselves from the Citizen Registry;

5.2 The Citizenship Authority shall remove a Métis Citizen who, by written request, declares that they no longer wish to be ~~registered as a~~ Métis Citizen;

5.3 A Métis Citizen who has removed themselves from the Registry may re-apply ~~for Registration~~ upon following the application procedure for ~~Registration as becoming a Métis~~ Citizen, as set out in this Act.

ARTICLE SIX – REMOVAL FROM REGISTRY DUE TO INELIGIBILITY

6.1 ~~6.1 —~~ If, due to information found during an audit or review, a person on the ~~Central~~ Citizen Registry is found to be ineligible for Métis ~~citizenship~~ Citizenship:

i. ~~a) —~~ The Citizenship Authority will notify the person, in writing, that their Métis citizenship is under review, and provide the reason(s) for ineligibility, and, if relevant, the Supporting Documentation required to restore citizenship status.

ii. ~~b) —~~ Supporting Documentation requested to restore ~~citizenship~~ Citizenship status must be provided within sixty (60) days of the review notice being sent by the Citizenship Authority. This time frame can be extended, by request of the



Citizen, by a further ninety (90) days.

- a. ~~(+)~~ Extension requests are granted solely at the discretion of the Citizenship Authority.

6.2 ~~6.2~~ If the Citizenship Authority has received Supporting Documentation to their satisfaction that the person is eligible for Métis Citizenship, the review status of their ~~citizenship~~ Citizenship will be immediately removed. _____



- 6.3 ~~6.3~~ — If the Citizenship Authority has not received any further Supporting Documentation, or, the Supporting Documentation is insufficient to objectively verify and meet the criteria for Métis citizenship, the citizenship of the person will be revoked, and the person will be notified of this revocation in writing.
- 6.4 ~~6.4~~ — A person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six may appeal the Citizenship Authority's decision to the Senate, within sixty (60) days of the date removal notice is sent by the Citizenship Authority. The Senate's decision on this Appeal will be final and binding.
- 6.5 ~~6.5~~ — A person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six may re-apply for Registration upon following MNBC Citizenship by completing the procedure for Registration as a Métis Citizen as set out in this Act. ~~Application Process.~~
- 6.6 ~~6.6~~ — A person who is placed under review by the Citizenship Authority is not eligible to apply for any further supports, programs, or funding through MNBC until their citizenship has been reaffirmed. A person currently receiving supports will continue to receive them for at least sixty (60) days following the notice sent by the Citizenship Authority. This time frame can be extended, by request of the person under review, by a further sixty (60) days.
- (i) ~~Extension requests are granted at the discretion of the responsible program director. A negative decision can be appealed within thirty (30) days to the MNBC Board, who can overturn the decision by a majority vote.~~

ARTICLE SEVEN – ~~CENTRAL~~CITIZEN REGISTRY

- 7.1 The Ministry of Citizenship shall maintain ~~a uniform~~ an objectively verifiable system for the ~~Registration of Métis Citizens~~ processing of Metis Citizenship applications;
- 7.2 The Ministry of Citizenship shall collect and maintain the information necessary to determine ~~registration~~ Citizenship eligibility; the information to be collected is listed on the MNBC Citizenship Application Package and updated from time to time.
- 7.3 The Ministry of Citizenship may collect and ~~register~~ maintain additional demographic information about Métis Citizens as, in the Ministry of Citizenship's sole discretion, is deemed necessary and/or expedient;
- 7.4 All information concerning Applicants or Métis Citizens located at the ~~Central~~ Citizen Registry is confidential and the Ministry of Citizenship shall adhere to or cause to be adhered to, all federal and provincial Privacy Laws;
- 7.5 The Ministry of Citizenship shall cause the Registry to be kept safely by administrative, physical, and technological safeguards that are reasonable and consistent with this Act;
- 7.6 The Ministry of Citizenship will, with the consent of the MNBC Board of Directors obtain permission from Citizens to release certain personal information of Citizens to the Provincial or Federal Governments for health and social determinants of health research purposes only, provided that each Citizen affected by that permission has been provided with an information document fully describing the information proposed by the Ministry



of Citizenship to be released, including a release statement that provides that Citizen with an opportunity to decline or refuse to permit the release of the personal information proposed to be released.

- i. In the event a Citizen, having been provided with a reasonable opportunity to respond to the Ministry of Citizenship at the address provided, declines to give their consent for the information to be released, then that information will not be released.

7.7 Applicants may apply for Citizenship by written Application through a Chartered ~~Community, a regional registry clerk, or Community or~~ directly to the ~~Métis Nation British Columbia registry~~ Ministry of Citizenship;

7.8 ~~Application shall~~ Applications may be submitted by ~~the~~ Chartered Community ~~of the MNBC and/or the Regional Registry Clerk to the Ministry of Citizenship for consideration and entry into the Central Registry~~ Citizenship on behalf of the Applicant ;

7.9 An Applicant whose application is not approved by the Ministry of Citizenship shall be notified, in writing of the decision;

7.10 An ~~Applicant, having applied for Citizenship directly to the MNBC and whose~~ Applicant whose Application the Citizenship Authority approves, shall be issued a ~~Provincial MNBC~~ Citizenship Card by the ~~Central Registry and forwarded directly to the Applicant;~~ Ministry of Citizenship

~~An Applicant, who has applied for MNBC Citizenship, where the application has been forwarded by a Chartered Community or Regional Registry Clerk, and whose application the Provincial Citizenship Authority approves, shall be issued a Provincial Citizenship Card by the Central Registry and forwarded directly to the Applicant;~~

7.11 Each ~~Provincial~~ MNBC Citizenship Card shall bear a personal and individual registration number and clearly identify which MNBC Region the ~~Citizens~~ Citizen resides;

7.12 ~~Provincial~~ MNBC Citizenship Cards issued pursuant this Act shall constitute the only legitimate and valid proof of Métis Citizenship to the exclusion of all other cards and/or documents of any nature;

~~7.1 Except as may be otherwise provided by this Act, the MNBC shall be solely responsible for the development and distribution of the Provincial Citizenship Application Forms and the Provincial Citizenship Card.~~

ARTICLE EIGHT – ~~REGISTRY OFFICE~~

~~8.0 The MNBC shall establish a Citizenship Authority which shall maintain and provide Provincial Citizenship Application Forms and Provincial Citizenship Cards to Applicants or Chartered Communities when consent to Release of Personal information forms have been signed and submitted by the Applicant.~~



ARTICLE ~~NINE~~ - THE MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP

- 8.1 The Ministry of Citizenship shall be required to follow all policies and procedures developed by the MNBC and shall:
- 8.2 Receive and review applications for citizenship submitted by an Applicant on the ~~Provincial~~ MNBC Standardized Citizenship Application Forms and shall render a decision whether a person is entitled to be ~~registered pursuant to this Act~~ Métis Citizen;
- 8.3 Be and is authorized to request and obtain Genealogical evidence and/or any other documentation and information which may be relevant to an application and the proper discharge of the Ministry of Citizenship's duties;
- 8.4 Provide a report in writing to MNGA and the MNBC upon their reasonable request;
- 8.5 Maintain the ~~Central~~ Citizen Registry in a suitable and proper manner;
- 8.6 Provide a written decision to the Applicant ~~and/or the Chartered Community~~, as may be appropriate under the circumstances concerning an application;
- 8.7 Include with any written decision, written instruction on the procedure for commencing an appeal from a decision of the Ministry of Citizenship;
- ~~9.1 Be authorized to render decisions on the voluntary removal of Métis Citizens from the Central Registry;~~
- 8.8 Applicants whose applications are not approved for Citizenship ~~by the Central Registry~~ may appeal such decision to the Senate;
- 8.9 Ensure that all documentation and information in the possession of the Ministry of Citizenship with respect to the application under appeal is provided, together with the Ministry of Citizenship's report, to the Senate prior to the date upon which the appeal is to be heard;
- 8.10 Comply with any reasonable request of the Senate or of the Citizens' Appeal Committee or other appropriate Senate Tribunal for information or material concerning the Application or an appeal;
- ~~9.2 Supervise the staff and operation of the Registry Office;~~
- 8.11 Respond to any reasonable request for information from an Applicant, the appropriate Chartered Community or the MNBC concerning an application.

ARTICLE ~~TEN~~ NINE – CITIZENSHIP APPEAL

- 9.1 ~~10.0~~ — An Applicant, Chartered Community or the MNBC may appeal a decision of the Citizenship Authority concerning the application of an Applicant for Citizenship to the Senate pursuant to the provisions of this Act or the Senate Act.



ARTICLE ~~ELEVEN-TEN~~ – FINANCES

- 10.1 ~~11.0~~ — The expenses and costs associated with the maintenance of the Ministry of Citizenship including the remuneration for the office of the Citizenship Authority and the Registry office staff shall be established by the MNBC based on the availability of fiscal resources.

ARTICLE ~~TWELVE~~ELEVEN - ADOPTION

- ~~12~~11.1 The MNBC shall accept an application for citizenship as a Métis Citizen upon applicant providing to the Citizenship Authority objectively verifiable proof of an adoption which, if accepted by the Citizenship Authority, proves that the Applicant has been adopted by a Métis Citizen or is eligible for citizenship as per the *MNBC Citizenship Act*.

11.2 The adopted Métis Citizen's citizenship is limited by a life estate termination, unless;

11.3 The adopted Métis Citizen marries a Métis Citizen, thereby which the offspring can attain their citizenship through the Métis genealogy of the other parent.

11.4 An adult adoption (18 years or older) is exempt from receiving Métis Citizenship ~~as per Article 12.0~~.



RESOLUTION 3

SUBMITTED TO THE 2025 SPRING
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: *Citizenship Act* Amendments: Adoption Clause

Legislation Affected: *Citizenship Act*

Submitted by: MNBC Board of Directors

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: December 9, 2024

Vote Required for Approval: 75%

WHEREAS

1. MNBC has agreed to follow the “National Definition” of Métis, which states:

“Métis” means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry and is accepted by the Métis Nation.”
2. Article 12 of the *Citizenship Act* permits individuals adopted by Métis Citizens to apply for – and receive – Métis Citizenship, regardless if they meet the “National Definition” requirement “is of historic Metis Nation Ancestry” or not.
3. People who are not adopted and apply for MNBC Citizenship are required to demonstrate that they are “of historic Metis Nation Ancestry” in order to become Citizens, and as a matter of practice this requirement must be the same for all people applying for Citizenship.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. Article 12 be struck in its entirety from the *Citizenship Act*.



RESOLUTION 4
SUBMITTED TO THE SPRING 2025
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: Ensuring Representation for 2SLGBTQQIA+ Citizens at the MNGA and Regional Governance Councils

Legislation Affected: *Electoral Act, 2SLGBTQQIA+ Act*

Submitted by: South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Society

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: January 17, 2025

Vote Required for Approval: 75%

WHEREAS

1. Chartered Community Presidents constitute a majority of the membership of Regional Governance Councils (RGCs) and the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA);
2. In the event a Community President cannot attend an RGC or MNGA Meeting, the Vice-President may attend in their place;
3. Chartered Community Presidents and Vice-Presidents are leaders in their community, and as such may also hold elected Regional positions; and
4. If a President or Vice-President is also an elected Regional representative, reduction of representation at an RGC or MNGA for groups such as women and youth may be negatively impacted;
5. A similar resolution for the Métis Women BC and the Métis Youth BC was approved by the assembly at the 2024 MNBC AGM, and approval of this resolution will align the *2SLGBTQQIA+ Act* with the *Métis Nation Women's Act* and *Métis Nation Youth Act*.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The underlined words be inserted in Article 8.10 to the *Electoral Act*, as set out below:
- 8.10 Upon election, by vote or acclamation, as a Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+, Regional Women's, or Youth Representative, a Citizen who holds the position of President or Vice-President on a Chartered Community Board must immediately resign from that position.

- B. The following be added as a sub-Article to Article 5.3 of the *2SLGBTQQIA+ Act*:

Upon election, by vote or acclamation, as a Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative, a Citizen who holds the position of President or Vice-President on a Chartered Community Board must immediately resign from that position.

- i. If the position of Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative is vacant between elections, a President or Vice-President of a Chartered Community may be appointed to the position on an interim basis, subject to procedures set out in the *Constitution* and the *MNGA Act*.



RESOLUTION 5

SUBMITTED TO THE 2025 SPRING
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: Funding for Chartered Communities

Legislation Affected: N/a

Submitted by: South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association, Salmon Arm Métis Association, and Waceya Métis Association

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: January 17, 2025

Vote Required for Approval: Majority

WHEREAS

1. Chartered Communities are experiencing unprecedented demands on their resources and services;
2. Volunteers within these communities are increasingly facing burnout due to the extensive and ongoing nature of their contributions;
3. There is a need for substantial financial support to ensure the sustainable operation and success of these communities;
4. Funding is essential for covering costs related to rent and housekeeping needs, hiring contractors/staff, and organizing programs/events that benefit the community;
5. Strict documentation of how funds are used is critical to ensure transparency and accountability;
6. If funds are not entirely spent or properly accounted for, the continuation of funding may be at risk.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the resolution approved at the March 2023 MNGA entitled “Stipend for Volunteer Community Elected Members” (attached as Appendix A) be rescinded and replaced with the following:

- A. MNBC provide funding up to \$150,000 (ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS) annually to each MNBC Chartered Community.
- B. MNBC provide the funding on a predictable date annually.
- C. Communities that accept this funding are required to maintain detailed records of expenditures and provide comprehensive annual reports to the MNBC, with requirements to be established by the MNBC.
- D. Funding allocation is contingent upon compliance with the documentation and accountability measures set forth by the MNBC.



RESOLUTION 5

APPROVED BY THE MARCH 2023 MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: Stipend for Volunteer Community Elected Members

Legislation Affected: n/a

Submitted by: Cowichan Valley Métis Nation

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: January 31, 2023

WHEREAS

1. MNBC elected members receive compensation for a position held as an elected member supporting the future of all registered MNBC Members; and
2. MNBC elected members recently received an increase in remuneration to recognize the position as being a full-time position; and
3. MNBC elected members receiving the increase in pay are the President, Vice-President, Directors and other elected members; and
4. MNBC elected members receive remuneration for expenses and cost associated with the position they hold.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The MNGA directs MNBC to resource administrative and operational capacity funding for all Chartered Communities.
- B. The MNBC will include the MNGA Governance Committee to participate in the process that will determine the details of resourcing noted in A above.



RESOLUTION 6

SUBMITTED TO THE SPRING 2025
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: Enhance Transparency and Accountability in MNBC Reporting and Financial Management

Legislation Affected: N/A

Submitted by: Waceya Métis Society; Salmon Arm Métis Association; and South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: January 30, 2025

Vote Required for Approval: Majority

WHEREAS

1. There is little to no transparency between Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and Chartered Communities regarding how MNBC spends its funding at its discretion. This opacity has led to concerns among Chartered Communities about the effective allocation and use of resources.
2. Currently, there is no clear method for the Chartered Communities or citizens of MNBC to assess how effectively MNBC is adhering to its Strategic Plan or reaching the goals set out in the plan. Without a clear framework, it is difficult to measure progress or hold leadership accountable for unmet objectives.
3. The current MNBC Annual General Meeting (AGM) report is presented in a bloated format that includes complex financial reports without proper context, and ministry reports that lack clear metrics or measurable outcomes. These reports are challenging to interpret and do not provide the clarity needed for Chartered Communities to fully understand MNBC's activities or progress.
4. Chartered Communities and citizens of MNBC deserve clear, concise, and transparent reporting on MNBC's progress in meeting the goals outlined in the strategic plan. Accountability in both financial management and program delivery is critical to building trust and ensuring effective governance.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The MNGA request that the MNBC Board direct staff to:
 - Produce an annual report that directly illustrates how MNBC's activities, programs, and overall initiatives reflect progress, or lack thereof, toward achieving the goals set out in the MNBC strategic plan. This report should be designed as a measure of accountability to demonstrate whether MNBC is successfully meeting its strategic objectives.

- Ensure the annual report clearly outlines how funding streams from federal and provincial sources, as well as discretionary spending, are allocated and used. This report must provide transparent, accessible information for Chartered Communities, breaking down the financial management in a way that is easy to understand, allowing Chartered Communities and citizens to see exactly how resources are being utilized and where they are being allocated.
 - Ensure that the annual report is concise and relevant, presenting financial information with clear context, highlighting key metrics and measurable outcomes for each ministry. This approach will provide a more focused and transparent report, removing unnecessary legislative updates or information that is not pertinent to the previous year's activities.
 - Ensure that every dollar from its annual operating budget is accounted for in the annual report, detailing exactly how funds are being allocated, spent, and managed. This will provide full transparency on financial operations, ensuring that Chartered Communities and MNBC citizens have clear insight into the fiscal responsibility of MNBC leadership.
- B. THAT, subject to approval of A above, the Board direct the MNBC Treasurer to be accountable for the accuracy of this annual report, ensuring that it meets the transparency and accountability standards outlined above. The Treasurer shall work closely with Chartered Communities to ensure their satisfaction with the transparency and clarity of the report, incorporating their feedback into future improvements.
- C. THAT, subject to approval of A and B above, MNBC engage with Chartered Communities in a consultation process to develop a standardized reporting format that addresses the need for transparency, accountability, and clarity, ensuring that the needs and concerns of all communities are reflected in future reports.



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

CONSTITUTION & LEGISLATION



MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

CONSTITUTION

AS RATIFIED SEPTEMBER 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





Original Ratification - September 27, 2003

Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia

Whereas the Métis People in British Columbia assert their inherent right of self-government and hereby establish the Government of the Métis Nation British Columbia:

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

1. The Métis Nation is distinct within the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. The Métis are distinct from First Nations and Inuit and are the descendants of the historic Métis who evolved as a people with a common political will and consciousness.
2. Having experienced physical and political conflict and being deprived of property in the late 1800's, we are still engaged in a continuing struggle to rebuild our government and revive our cultural heritage and pride. As such, we are striving for the political, legal and constitutional recognition and guarantees of the rights of Métis people, including the right to a land and resource base, self-governance and self-government institutions. In order to achieve these objectives we are hereby re-establishing a strong and revitalized government within the province of British Columbia, which involves all sectors of Métis society.
3. In accordance with Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the Métis people are an Aboriginal people within Canada whose existing Aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized and affirmed.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF MÉTIS PEOPLE

4. The Métis Nation has the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right we, the citizens of the Métis Nation, will freely determine our political status and freely pursue our economic, social and cultural development.
5. The Métis Nation undertakes to respect and ensure to all Métis citizens within the Nation rights without distinction of any kind such as sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other views.
6. Métis men and Métis women equally enjoy all civil and political rights set forth in these articles.
7. Every Métis citizen has the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose their residence.
8. No Métis Citizen shall be subject to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on their honour or reputation.
9. Every Métis citizen has the right to freedom of thought, expression, conscience and religion.



10. Every Métis Citizen has the right of association and to assemble and organize at the community level. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those necessary to protect the peace and order of the Métis Nation as prescribed by the Métis Nation Governing Assembly.
11. Nothing in this Constitution abrogates or derogates from the rights Métis people have or may exercise under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA (MNBC) AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

12. Subject to the provisions of Article 46, the Board of Directors shall be comprised of the seven (7) Elected Regional Directors, the elected Chairperson for the Métis Women of British Columbia, the elected Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, the elected Chairperson for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council, the President and Vice-President for a total of twelve (12) Members.
 - 12.1. While serving in one of the positions noted in Article 12, a member of the MNBC Board of Directors may not hold a position on a Chartered Community Board.
13. The MNBC shall be responsible for ensuring that Communities, departments, programs and services are running smoothly and have the necessary resources to enable them to operate efficiently. This responsibility recognizes that funding may be limited, that there will be competing priorities for resources and that all requests for resources are unlikely to be met.
14. The Board of Directors shall provide a written Activity Report and a written Financial Report at each session of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly.
15. The Executive of the Board of Directors shall be comprised of four (4) Members: the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
16. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer to the Executive from among its Members.
17. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to appoint Commissions, Committees or other subsidiary bodies, where they are deemed necessary in order to effectively carry out the activities and functions of the MNBC or the Métis Nation Governing Assembly. In appointing such bodies, the MNBC must ensure that adequate financial resources are available to permit the bodies to conduct their assigned activities and that all such bodies have clear terms of reference, including reporting requirements.
18. The Board of Directors shall designate persons who may have signing authority for the purposes of conducting the affairs of the MNBC and the Métis Nation Governing Assembly, which shall include the Treasurer.
19. The Board of Directors shall meet at least four (4) times per year at the call of the President or Vice-President in the absence of the President. The President or Vice-President as the case may be shall give two (2) days written notice of all MNBC meetings to all the Members of the MNBC. The two (2) day notice period may be waived by the Members in attendance at a meeting.



- 19.1. A meeting of the Board of Directors can be called by a majority of the Board of Directors.
20. Quorum of the Board of Directors shall be the majority of the Board of Directors.
21. Decisions of the Board of Directors shall require a simple majority.
22. A person may not be a Member of the Board of Directors when they hold a salaried position directly with the Métis Nation Governing Assembly or the MNBC. This does not disqualify a person from being a Member of the Board of Directors when that person receives an honorarium, salary or per diem for performing the duties of that elected office.
23. A person is disqualified from being a Member of the Board of Directors 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 no longer the Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
 - 23.7. They are under eighteen (18) years of age.
 - 23.8. 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.
 - 23.9. They have clearly been identified as having breeched their fiduciary duty to the Members or to Métis citizens.
24. A member of the Board of Directors shall not be removed from the Board of Directors for any reason other than as set out in Article 23 or through an election held in accordance with this Constitution.
25. A person may be suspended from being a Board Member of the Board of Directors, with or without pay, by a vote of the majority of the Members of the Board of Directors. A person so suspended may appeal the suspension to the Senate whose decision shall be final and binding.
26. Should there no longer be a President of the Board of Directors pursuant to Article 23 and 25, the Vice- President shall fulfill the Office of the President until a by-election is held to elect a new President in accordance with Article 46.
27. The Secretary or the Treasurer may resign from the Executive without being disqualified from being a Member of the Board of Directors.



MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY (MNGA)

28. There shall be established a Métis Nation Governing Assembly, which shall be the governing legislative body of the Métis Nation British Columbia.
29. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly shall be comprised of the elected Presidents or Vice-Presidents of Communities, the elected Regional Directors of the MNBC, the elected President and Vice-President of the MNBC, the elected Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, the elected Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, and the elected Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Governance Council.
- 29.1. In the event a Community President is unable to attend a General Assembly, the Community's Vice-President may represent that Community.
- 29.2. If the Provincial Chair of the Métis Women of British Columbia is unable to attend a Governing Assembly, the MWBC Vice-Chair may attend in their place.
- 29.3. If the Provincial Chair of the Métis Youth of British Columbia is unable to attend a Governing Assembly, the MYBC Vice-Chair may attend in their place so long as they are at least 18 years of age.
30. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly shall review and ratify legislation, regulations, rules, resolutions and constitutional amendments for presentation and final ratification at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.
31. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly shall have the authority to appoint Commissions, Committees or other subsidiary bodies, where they are deemed necessary in order to effectively carry out their legislative duties. In appointing such bodies, the Métis Nation Governing Assembly must ensure that adequate financial resources are available to permit the bodies to conduct their assigned activities and that all such bodies have clear terms of reference, including reporting requirements.
32. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly shall meet at least three (3) times per year in British Columbia at a meeting on a date decided upon by the Métis Nation Governing Assembly at the previous meeting. The meetings shall be held at least three (3) months prior to the MNBC Annual General Meeting, except as required in Article 32.1. Meetings may take place over one (1) or two (2) days, as determined by the Métis Nation Governing Assembly. Two meetings will be virtually and one in-person, or as determined by the Métis Nation Governing Assembly. The notice requirement does not apply to Article 32.1.
- 32.1 The Métis Nation Governing Assembly shall, subject to the availability of financial resources, meet at the request of the MNBC or on the request of a Regional Governance Council, at such times and in such manner as may be appropriate in the circumstances, including but not limited to electronic or telephone communication, to consider motions that may have, as their effect, the resolve of matters that are urgent or require a decision prior to the next annual sitting of the MNGA.
33. Fifty (50) per cent plus one of the Members of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly constitutes a quorum. However quorum must include a majority of the MNBC Board of Directors.



34. A person is disqualified from being a Member of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly when:
- 34.1. They die.
 - 34.2. They resign.
 - 34.3. They are no longer the President or Vice-President of a Community.
 - 34.4. They are no longer the Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia.
 - 34.5. They are no longer the Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia.
 - 34.6. They are under eighteen (18) years of age, except for the Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia.
 - 34.7. They are no longer the Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council
 - 34.8. They have clearly breached their fiduciary duty to the Members or the Métis citizens.
35. A person may be suspended temporarily or permanently from being a Member of the MNGA by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Members present. A person so suspended may appeal the suspension to the Senate whose decision shall be final and binding.

ELECTIONS

36. Any Métis citizen who is eighteen (18) years of age or older may vote or seek elected office within the Métis Nation Governing Assembly, the Board of Directors or a Community.
37. 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.
38. Any Métis citizen who is between fifteen (15) years of age and thirty (30) years of age may vote or seek elected office within the Métis Youth of British Columbia, except for the office of Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia.
- 38.1. Any Métis Citizen who is between eighteen (18) years of age and thirty (30) years of age may seek the elected office of Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia.
39. Any Métis Citizen who self-identifies as 2SLGBTQQIA+ and is of eighteen (18) years of age or older may vote or seek elected office for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
40. Any person seeking elected office must have been a resident of British Columbia at least twelve (12) months prior to the date of the election and must have been a resident of a Region at least six (6) months prior to the date of the election in order to seek elected office as a Community President or Regional Director.
41. To vote in an election, a person must have been a resident of British Columbia at least twelve (12) months prior to the date of the election and must have been a resident of a Region at least six (6) months prior to the date of the election in order to vote for a Community President or



Regional Director. A person who wishes to vote for a Community President or Regional Director, but has not been a resident of a Region for six (6) months may vote for a Community President or Regional Director in the Region that they lived immediately prior to the election, provided that they meet the other voting requirements.

42. The President and the Vice-President of the Board of Directors, the Chairperson for the Métis Women of British Columbia, the Chairperson for the Métis Youth of British Columbia, and the Chairperson for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall be elected by a province-wide ballot.
43. Elections for the Board of Directors shall be held once every four (4) years on any date within 6 months prior to the 4th year anniversary.
44. Elections for the Métis Nation Governing Assembly who are not also Members of the Board of Directors shall be held at least every two (2) years.
45. There shall be no limits on the number of terms that may be served by anyone elected to the Métis Nation Governing Assembly, the Board of Directors or a Community.
46. In order to run for elected office in the Board of Directors, a candidate must provide a Criminal Record Check from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or Municipal Police Detachment to the Chief Electoral Officer with the filed nomination papers for the purpose of satisfying Article 23.7. The results and content of the Criminal Record Check shall not be made public, unless the candidate voluntarily consents in writing.
47. Subject to available financial resources, a by-election shall be held within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of any vacancy on the Board of Directors or of any elected position at the regional level. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President and financial resources are unavailable, the sitting Vice-President will fill the office of President and the Board of Directors will appoint, from among them, a person to fill the office of Vice-President until a by-election or election is held for that position.
 - 47.1. In the case of a vacancy in the position of the Provincial Women's Chairperson, an interim chairperson will be recommended to the MNGA by the Board of Directors on the advice of the MWBC Provincial Governance Council.
 - 47.2. In the case of a vacancy in the position of the Provincial Youth Chairperson, an interim chairperson will be recommended to the MNGA by the Board of Directors on the advice of the MYBC Committee;
 - 47.3. In the case of a vacancy in the position of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council Chairperson, an interim chairperson will be recommended to the MNGA by the Board of Directors on the advice of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
 - 47.4. In the case of any other vacancy on the Board of Directors, an interim Director, as selected by the RGC will be recommended to the MNGA by the Board of Directors and if approved by the MNGA, the vacancy shall be filled by the interim Director. In the case of a vacancy in a position of a MWBC Regional Representative or MYBC Regional Representative, an interim Representative will be recommended to the MNGA by the respective RGC, and if approved by the MNGA, the vacancy shall be



filled by the interim representative. An interim Director or Representative shall be subject to Article 45 of the Constitution.

48. When nominations close, all candidates holding a salaried position with the MNBC or MNGA must submit in writing, notice of a leave of absence.

SENATE

49. The Senate shall be responsible for the provisions outlined in the legislation known as the Senate Act.
50. The Senate shall be comprised of seven (7) Senators. Each of the seven (7) Regions shall appoint one (1) Senator in the manner and process as set out in the Senate Act.
51. In order to be considered for a Senate appointment, a Senate candidate must be a Métis citizen and must have provided a Criminal Record Check from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or Municipal Police Detachment to the MNBC who will review the Criminal Record Check in confidence to ensure compliance with sub-section 54.3. The results and content of the Criminal Record Check shall not be made public, unless the Senate candidate voluntarily consents in writing.
52. No Senator may hold any elected or salaried position within the Board of Directors, MNGA, Community, or subsidiary Board, Commission or Committee, Métis Women of British Columbia or the Métis Youth of British Columbia and must resign from any such position prior to appointment to the Senate.
53. Senators shall be appointed for a term and conditions as set out in the Senate Act.
54. A person ceases to be a Senator when:
- 54.1. They resign.
 - 54.2. They die.
 - 54.3. They have been convicted of a criminal offence carrying a penalty over two (2) years (2) years or greater.
 - 54.4. They take a salaried position prohibited by Article 51.
 - 54.5. Or as outlined in the provisions of the Senate Act.
55. The Board of Directors shall determine the rate of remuneration and expenses for the first term of the Senate. Thereafter, the Board of Directors shall determine the rate of remuneration and expenses for the Senate, based on financial resources, which may be available for that purpose.

COMMUNITIES

56. Communities shall be the basic unit of the Métis Government. No community (city, town, municipality or unincorporated municipal unit) shall have more than one (1) Community.
- 56.1 Communities seeking chartered designation shall require written approval by motion of



- seventy five (75) percent of the Applicable Regional Governance Council members and such motion to be submitted to the MNGA;
- 56.2 Geographical boundaries of Community/Communities seeking Community Governance Charter shall be submitted as part of the motion to the MNGA;
- 56.3 Ratification by seventy five (75) percent of the MNGA is required.
57. A Community shall be made up of at least twenty-five (25) Members who are Métis Citizens eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- 57.1 If a group of Métis Citizens residing in a city, town, municipality or unincorporated municipal unit in which there is no existing Chartered Community, that group of Citizens may apply to the applicable Regional Governance Council for interim Chartered Community designation (hereinafter referred to as an “Interim Chartered Community” or having “Interim Chartered Community Status” as the case may be) provided the application is signed by at least 15 Members who are Métis Citizens eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- 57.2 The process for seeking Interim Chartered Community Status must follow the process set out in Articles 55.1, 55.2 and 55.3 of this Constitution.
- 57.3 If the application is approved by the MNGA, Interim Chartered Community Status can be granted for a maximum two (2) year period from the date ratification is confirmed by the MNGA, or when the Interim Chartered Community achieves twenty-five (25) Members and then applies for Chartered Community status pursuant to the provisions of Article 55, and then is approved.
- 57.4 An Interim Chartered Community shall have observer status at an MNGA, and shall not have voting rights.
- 57.5 An Interim Chartered Community may receive benefits and services from MNBC at the sole discretion of the MNBC.
58. Métis communities recognized by the MNBC Constitution and Legislation are required to enter into Community Governance Charters that define an affiliated relationship for financial and political accountability, mutual recognition and dispute resolution. Hereinafter known as “Community Governance Charter”.
59. All Communities shall, as soon as possible, enact a Constitution that is consistent with this Constitution.

REGIONS

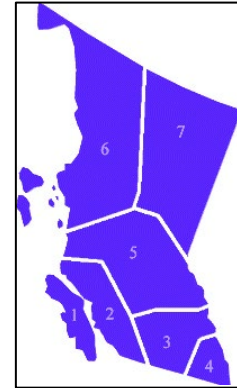
60. In the event that a Community is in contravention of the terms of its Community Governance Charter or of the provisions of the MNBC Constitution, the Board of Directors will do all within its ability to assist the community to come into compliance within the Community Governance Charter and/or MNBC Constitution as the case may be and, in the event the Community, in the discretion of the Board of Directors, remains or continues to be non-compliant, the Board of Directors shall make such recommendations to the MNGA as may be



deemed appropriate, with the effect of dissolving that community's Community Governance Charter and affiliation with the MNBC.

60.1 There shall be seven (7) Regions as set out in the adjacent map:

- Region 1 Vancouver Island
- Region 2 Lower Mainland
- Region 3 Thompson/Okanagan
- Region 4 Kootenays
- Region 5 North Central
- Region 6 Northwest
- Region 7 Northeast



61. There shall be formed in each Region a Regional Governance Council comprised of the Presidents of the Communities in each respective Region, the Métis Youth of British Columbia Regional Representative, Regional Director, the Métis Women of British Columbia Regional Representative, and the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council Regional Representative. The Regional Director shall be the non-voting Chairperson of the Regional Governance Council.

- 61.1. All members of a Regional Governance Council must be registered with the Métis Nation British Columbia Central Registry as MNBC Citizens.
- 61.2. Each Regional Governance Council will meet at minimum four times per year. The meeting may be in person, by phone, or by video link. Time and space will be provided for Regional Governance Council Meetings at MNBC Governing Assemblies and Annual General Meetings at the request of the Regional Governance Council.
- 61.3. Regional Governance Councils are responsible for: informing MNBC of Chartered Community efforts and opportunities for the purpose of obtaining support from MNBC Ministries, MNBC political relationships, assisting in prioritizing the aspirations of MNBC annual and ongoing budgeting efforts, and inform the search for new funding opportunities. Regional Governance Councils are also responsible for informing Community leadership of progress and developments in all MNBC portfolios to ensure a well-informed Métis Governance, and provide opportunities for feedback and concerted efforts. MNBC leadership is responsible for consulting and engaging with Regional Governance Councils regarding all relevant agreements impacting Citizens.
- 61.4. Quorum for Regional Governance Councils is a simple majority of Council Members.
- 61.5. Regional Governance Councils may be called by the Regional Director or a simple majority of Council Members.
- 61.6. Written notice of the date, time, and location of a Regional Governance Council meeting must be provided to each member listed in Article 60 at least five (5) days before the meeting. This notice requirement may be waived by unanimous consent of the Regional Governance Council members."



- 61.7. If a member of the Regional Governance Council has been disqualified from being a member of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly pursuant to any of the provisions under Article 34, or if they have suspended from being a member of the MNGA pursuant to the provisions of Article 35, such disqualification or suspension shall also apply to their membership and participation in the applicable Regional Governance Council.
- 61.8. If the President of a Community is unable to attend an RGC meeting, each Chartered Community Board may designate an Elected Board Member of the Chartered Community to participate with voting privileges, provided they are a Métis Citizen . If a Regional Youth Representative is unable to attend an RGC meeting, that Representative may designate a Community Youth Representative to participate with voting privileges, provided they are a Metis Citizen.

CITIZENSHIP

62. Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples and is accepted by the Métis Nation.
- 62.1. “Historic Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people then known as Métis or Half-Breeds who resided in Historic Métis Nation Homeland.
- 62.2. “Historic Métis Nation Homeland” means the area of land in west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-Breeds as they were then known.
- 62.3. “Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation, which is now comprised of all Métis Nation citizens and is one of the “aboriginal peoples of Canada” within Section 35 of the Constitution Act of 1982.
- 62.4. “Distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples” means distinct for cultural and nationhood purposes.
63. The MNBC has a unique citizenship card for citizens of the Métis Nation in BC. These cards are numbered and the numbers recorded in the central registry by the office of the registrar.
64. Citizenship cards shall be issued to all Métis upon a person presenting themselves for citizenship and satisfying the definition set out above.
65. Where there is a dispute as to citizenship, a ruling shall be made by the Senate in accordance with the provisions of the Senate Act or the policies and procedures to be developed by the Senate, which ruling shall be final and binding.

MÉTIS INDEPENDENCE

66. The Métis Nation is seeking a third order of government within Canada, so the Métis Nation is non-partisan in respect of federal and provincial politics. This does not restrict the right of Métis individuals to hold Memberships in or to express personal opinions about federal, provincial, municipal partisan politics.



67. Any person seeking federal government or provincial government elected office shall take an unpaid leave of absence from any elected position that they may hold with the MNBC, MNGA, and Senate, Community or subsidiary Board, Commission or Committee at the close of nominations. Any person elected to federal government or provincial government elected office shall resign from any elected position that they may hold with the MNBC, MNGA, Senate, Community or subsidiary Board, Commission or Committee.
68. All Members of the Board of Directors, MNGA and Senate shall swear an Oath of Allegiance prior to taking office.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

69. An Annual General Meeting of the Métis Nation British Columbia must be held annually. The precise dates and locations of an AGM must be determined at the AGM immediately preceding that AGM. The agenda for each AGM shall include:
- 69.1. Audited Financial Report for Previous Fiscal Year
 - 69.2. President's Report for Previous Fiscal Year
 - 69.3. Business of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly
 - 69.4. Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia Secretariat Annual Report.
 - 69.5. Separate audited financial annual reports for each subsidiary company/companies, limited corporations or sole proprietorship registered under the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (MPCBC) shall be appended to the MNBC Financial Audited Report.
70. Only persons who have registered as a Métis Citizen pursuant to the *MNBC Citizenship Act*, and are registered as a MNBC Citizen within the MNBC Central Registry, are entitled to speak and be issued voting credentials at a MNBC AGM or SGM.

SECRETARIAT

71. A Secretariat known as the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia shall be continued or created under the BC Society Act for the sole purpose of carrying out the administrative duties of the MNBC, MNGA and the Senate.
72. The Board of Directors of the Secretariat shall be the Members of the MNBC.

AMENDMENT

73. All legislation, legislative amendments, constitutional amendments and resolutions shall be considered and given first reading by the MNGA in accordance with the provisions of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act.
74. This Constitution will only be amended by the following process:
- 74.1. Any amendment must be ratified by the MNGA, pursuant to the legislation of the *MNGA Act*;



- 74.2. Amendments ratified by the MNGA are then presented for final approval to the Citizens present at the MNBC AGM.
- 74.3. At least seventy-five (75%) of votes cast in favor of the proposed amendment is required for ratification.

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

2SLGBTQQIA+ ACT

AS RATIFIED SEPTEMBER 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





PREAMBLE

0.0 Mission statement of the Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ of British Columbia:

“We, the Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ of B.C. vow to walk with integrity as the proud Otipemisiwak (people who govern themselves) our ancestors prayed for; to elevate and center the voices of our people in the decisions that impact our nation; to foster a culture of wahkohtowin (kinship/interconnectedness) within our Nation; and to build a future where 2SLGBTQQIA+ can thrive alongside niwahnōmāc,anak (our relatives).”

ARTICLE ONE - TITLE

1.0 This Act may be cited as the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Act (“the “Act”)

ARTICLE TWO - PURPOSE OF THE ACT

2.0 The purpose of this act is to entrench Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people living in British Columbia (the “2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council”) in the MNBC governance structure to ensure that Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are equally represented and engaged in all levels of governance.

2.1 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council acknowledges and accepts the MNBC Constitution as the law governing the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council and agrees to comply with the provisions of the MNBC Constitution and MNBC Legislation

2.2 The objective of 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council is to advance and enhance Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ perspectives, and to acknowledge the contributions of Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people for the benefit of Métis people and the Métis Nation.

2.3 The voice of Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in British Columbia shall be brought to the MNBC, Métis National Council, Women of the Métis Nation Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, Federal and Provincial Governments, organizations and associations through the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.

ARTICLE THREE - DEFINITIONS

3.0 In this Act:

3.1 **“2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council”** means the seven elected 2SLGBTQQIA+ representatives, one from each Region, and the chairperson also known as the Minister responsible for Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.



- 3.2 **“Legislation”** means legislative documents, laws and/or acts including amendments to existing legislative documents, laws and/or acts.
- 3.3 **“Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ person/individual”** means those Métis individuals who identify as 2SLGBTQQIA+.
- 3.4 **“M2SBC”** Means the Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ of British Columbia
- 3.4 **“Métis Nation Governing Assembly”** (MNGA) means the governing legislative body of the MNBC, as set out in the Constitution.
- 3.5 **“MNBC Assembly”** means MNBC Annual General Meeting (AGM).

ARTICLE FOUR - 2SLGBTQQIA+ PROVINCIAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

- 4.1 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council will be the representative body of Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in British Columbia, comprised of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Chairperson and the seven (7) 2SLGBTQQIA+ Regional Representatives
- 4.2 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council will be chaired by a person elected through the Electoral Act as the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Chairperson.
- 4.3 The Minister Responsible for Metis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people living in British Columbia will be the person elected as MNBC Provincial 2SLGBTQQIA+ Chairperson in accordance with the provisions of the MNBC Electoral Act, who shall serve as the Minister Responsible for Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people on the MNBC Board of Directors.
- 4.4 The Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representatives will be elected by Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people living in their respective region in accordance with the provision of the MNBC Electoral Act.
- 4.5 The Director of 2SLGBTQQIA+ Equity will be an employee of Métis Nation BC who is hired or appointed as the Director of 2SLGBTQQIA+ to support and further Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people living in British Columbia.

ARTICLE FIVE - 2SLGBTQQIA+ PROVINCIAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL STRUCTURE

- 5.0 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall,



- 5.1 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council Chairperson or, in the event the Chairperson is unable to attend, an appointed representative on behalf of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall attend every MNGA Assembly and MNBC Assembly.
- 5.2 The Provincial 2SLGBTQQIA+ Chairperson will serve as a voting Director on the MNBC Board of Directors.
- 5.3 The Provincial 2SLGBTQQIA+ Chairperson shall provide Provincial and Federal representation and be accountable to the Provincial Governance Council and the MNBC Board of Directors.
- 5.4 The seven Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representatives each shall hold voting seats on their respective Regional Governance Councils.
- 5.5 The regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ representatives will be accountable to the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council, their Regional Governance Councils and Métis citizens of BC.
- 5.6 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall hold no less than four meetings, including virtual or in person meetings, each year called by the Minister Responsible for 2SLGBTQQIA+ Métis People or, in the event the Minister Responsible for 2SLGBTQQIA+ Métis People is unwilling or unable to call a meeting shall be called by a majority vote of the members of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
- 5.7 Quorum of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Governance Council is a majority of currently sitting members.
- 5.7 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Governance Council shall prepare and maintain written minutes of all in person or virtual meetings (the “2SLGBTQQIA+ Governance Council Meeting Minutes”).
- 5.8 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Governance Council Meeting Minutes shall be retained in the office of the Director of 2SLGBTQQIA+ Equity/head office of the Métis Nation British Columbia.
- 5.9 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall, on behalf of Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people living in British Columbia take such action or hold such functions as may be deemed appropriate to encourage and support equity for, and the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional well being of Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, including seeking funding for 2SLGBTQQIA+ initiatives.



ARTICLE SIX - ELECTORAL PROCESS

- 6.0 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council electoral processes are,
- 6.1 Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals seeking elected office must meet all eligibility requirements as set out in the *MNBC Constitution*, the *MNBC Electoral Act*, and the MNBC guidelines.
 - 6.2 The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall be elected for a four (4) year term in conjunction with the *MNBC Electoral Act*.
 - 6.3 In the event a vacancy in the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall arise due to the resignation, removal, suspension or otherwise of a 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council member, the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall hold a by-election in accordance with the *MNBC Electoral Act*.

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

MÉTIS NATION CITIZENSHIP ACT

AS RATIFIED SEPTEMBER 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





ARTICLE ONE - TITLE

1.0 This Act may be cited as "The Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act"

ARTICLE TWO - INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 In this Act:
- 2.2 “**Act**” means the *Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act*.
- 2.3 “**Adoption**” Act of transferring parental rights and duties to someone other than the adopted person's biological parents by means of a statutory adoption or a customary Métis adoption.
- 2.4 “**Adopted Métis Citizen**” A Métis Citizen that has acquired their Métis Citizenship as per Article 12 of the *MNBC Citizenship Act*.
- 2.5 “**Appeal**” or “**Appeals**” means a written document submitted by: an Applicant who has been rejected entry in the Métis Nation British Columbia Central Registry, a Métis Nation British Columbia Citizen who is objecting to the registration of any Applicant to the Métis Nation British Columbia *Central Registry*, or a person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six of this Act;
- 2.6 “**Applicant**” means an individual who applies for a Provincial Citizenship Card by filing the necessary documentation with the Citizenship Authority.
- 2.7 “**Application**” means the Provincial Citizenship Standardized Application Form.
- 2.8 A “**Chartered Community**” is a Métis Community that has entered into a Community Governance Charter agreement with the MNBC.
- 2.9 “**Child**” means a child of a Métis citizen.
- 2.10 “**Citizenship Appeal Committee**” means the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Appeal Committee as established and maintained by the Senate.
- 2.11 “**Citizenship Authority**” (the “*Authority*”) means the office in the Ministry of Citizenship which processes, assesses, ensures Chartered Community acceptance is approved within the required timeframe, and issues citizenship cards. The Authority consists of:
- The Executive Director of Citizenship
 - The Director of Citizenship
 - The Citizenship Assessment Manager
- 2.12 “**Community Governance Charter**” *means* the written document that shall set out the terms of the relationship between a Chartered Community and the MNBC.
- 2.13 “**Constitution**” means the *Constitution* of the Métis Nation British Columbia as amended from time to time.



- 2.14 **“Customary Adoption”** An adoption that is consistent with the historical and customary practices of the Métis Nation which has occurred at an early age by an immediate or extended family member.
- 2.15 **“Extended Family Member”** Is a grandparent, uncle, aunt, cousin, nephew and/or niece that is a Métis Citizen or is eligible for Métis citizenship as per the *MNBC Citizenship Act*.
- 2.16 **“Genealogical Evidence”** means evidence which indicates proof that an Applicant’s parent is, or parents are, of Métis Ancestry and that the Applicant is Métis and which can be verified by an objective and valid process.
- 2.17 **“Historical and Customary Practices”** The traditional undertaking of privately arranged adoption between a Métis Citizen’s family and another aboriginal family.
- 2.18 **“Immediate Family Member”** Is a parent (mother/father), child (son/daughter) or sibling (sister/brother) that is a Métis Citizen or is eligible for Métis citizenship as per the *MNBC Citizenship Act*.
- 2.19 **“Legislation”** means legislative documents or acts pursuant to which the administrative affairs and constitutional requirements of the MNBC shall be carried out.
- 2.20 **“Registration”** means citizenship in the MNBC.
- 2.21 **“Métis”** or **“Citizen”** means a Métis Citizen as defined by the *Constitution*.
- 2.22 **“Métis Nation Governing Assembly”** (MNGA) means the legislative authority of the Métis Nation British Columbia as set out in the *Constitution*.
- 2.23 **“Métis Nation British Columbia”** (MNBC) means the organization previously known as the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia which represents and is comprised of the Métis Citizens of British Columbia and which is governed by the provisions of the *Constitution* which is also the *Constitution* of the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia.
- 2.24 **“Métis Nation British Columbia”** (MNBC) means the governing body with the secretariat known as the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia, which represents and is comprised of the Métis citizens of British Columbia and which is governed by the provision of the *Constitution*.
- 2.25 **“Provincial Citizenship Card”** means the identification card that shall be issued by the Citizenship Authority to all Métis Citizens who have had their Genealogy and supporting documentation validated and verified by the Office of the Citizenship Authority.
- 2.26 **“Registration”** means Citizenship in the MNBC.
- 2.27 **“Registry”** means the data and systems used by the Ministry of Citizenship to gather and store information about Métis Citizens.
- 2.28 **“Statutory Adoption”** An adoption that is granted under the authority of provincial and/or territorial government legislation.



- 2.29 **“Supporting Documentation”** is defined as records used to support an application for Citizenship, including Vital events records, historical records, church records, archival records, and census records.
- 2.30 **"Registered"** means registered as a Métis Citizen under this Act.
- 2.31 **“Under Review”** means a previously registered Citizen whose citizenship is currently being reviewed by the Citizenship Authority following an audit or review of the Central Registry

ARTICLE THREE – MÉTIS NATION ACCEPTANCE

- 3.1 The MNBC shall accept an application for citizenship upon Applicant providing to the Citizenship Authority a written application together with sufficient Genealogical evidence which, if accepted by the Citizenship Authority, is proof that the Applicant is of Métis ancestry, and that the Applicant complies with the following conditions:
- 3.1.1 The Applicant normally resides within the Chartered Community area and the jurisdiction of the MNBC; and
- 3.1.2 The Applicant expressly holds themselves out to be Métis in the Chartered Community and/or within the jurisdiction of the MNBC;
- 3.1.3 The Applicant recognizes they may 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;
- 3.1.4 The Applicant understands Métis Nation British Columbia is the representative body for Métis Citizens in BC provincially, nationally, and internationally;
- 3.1.5 The Applicant agrees that by signing the Oath of Citizenship on the MNBC Citizenship Application and/or the MNBC Citizenship Renewal or Replacement Application, they recognize MNBC as their sole governmental representative for their Indigenous rights under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution, independent of any other declaration or statement the Applicant may have made previously.
- 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, 3.1.4, and 3.1.5, the Citizenship Authority may issue the Applicant notification of Chartered Community acceptance not exceeding 90 days, and then issue a Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Card.
- 3.3 The Citizenship Authority shall provide a list of new Citizens to their respective Communities on a monthly basis, unless operational circumstances prevent that from happening, and in such a case the list of new Citizens must be provided by the end of the following month

ARTICLE FOUR - REGISTRATION PROCESS

- 4.1 An individual is entitled to make application for registration as a Métis Citizen by making application to the MNBC or to a Chartered Community;



- 4.2 Upon approval of registration, the Citizenship Authority shall issue a Provincial Citizenship Card recognizing the Applicant as a Métis Citizen.
- 4.3 The parent or guardian of a child under nineteen (19) years of age may apply for registration on behalf of the child;
- 4.4 The guardian of an individual who is under a mental or legal disability may apply for registration on behalf of that individual;
- 4.5 No individual is obliged to apply for registration;
- 4.6 In the case of an application for registration, the Applicant must provide the Citizenship Authority with genealogy and the supporting documentation necessary to validate and verify that the Applicant is Métis;
- 4.7 The Citizenship Authority shall review applications for registration and shall register an Applicant as a Métis only if:
- a) The Applicant is entitled to be registered as a Métis pursuant to the provisions of this Act;
 - b) Upon completion of the Métis Nation acceptance process; and
 - c) The application is properly made.
- 4.8 The Citizenship Authority shall establish and implement a process to seek out and encourage the application for registration of all qualified individuals who are entitled to be registered as Métis Citizens.

ARTICLE FIVE - VOLUNTARY REMOVAL FROM REGISTRY

- 5.1 A Métis Citizen may, at any time, voluntarily remove themselves from the Registry;
- 5.2 The Citizenship Authority shall remove a Métis Citizen who, by written request, declares that they no longer wish to be registered as a Métis Citizen;
- 5.3 A Métis Citizen who has removed themselves from the Registry may re-apply for Registration upon following the procedure for Registration as a Métis Citizen as set out in this Act.

ARTICLE SIX – REMOVAL FROM REGISTRY DUE TO INELIGIBILITY

- 6.1 If, due to information found during an audit, review, renewal, or replacement, a person on the Central Registry is found to be ineligible for Métis citizenship:
- a) The Citizenship Authority will notify the person, in writing, that their Métis citizenship is under review, and provide the reason(s) for ineligibility, and, if relevant, the Supporting Documentation required to restore citizenship status.



- b) Supporting Documentation requested to restore citizenship status must be provided within sixty (60) days of the review notice being sent by the Citizenship Authority. This time frame can be extended, by request of the Citizen, by a further ninety (90) days.
 - (i) Extension requests are granted solely at the discretion of the Citizenship Authority.
- 6.2 If the Citizenship Authority has received Supporting Documentation to their satisfaction that the person is eligible for Métis Citizenship, the review status of their citizenship will be immediately removed.
- 6.3 If the Citizenship Authority has not received any further Supporting Documentation, or, the Supporting Documentation is insufficient to objectively verify and meet the criteria for Métis citizenship, the citizenship of the person will be revoked, and the person will be notified of this revocation in writing.
- 6.4 A person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six may appeal the Citizenship Authority's decision to the Senate, within sixty (60) days of the date removal notice is sent by the Citizenship Authority. The Senate's decision on this Appeal will be final and binding.
- 6.5 A person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six may re-apply for Registration upon following the procedure for Registration as a Métis Citizen as set out in this Act.
- 6.6 A person who is placed under review by the Citizenship Authority is not eligible to apply for any further supports, programs, or funding through MNBC until their citizenship has been reaffirmed. A person currently receiving supports will continue to receive them for at least sixty (60) days following the notice sent by the Citizenship Authority. This time frame can be extended, by request of the person under review, by a further sixty (60) days.
 - (i) Extension requests are granted at the discretion of the responsible program director. A negative decision can be appealed within thirty (30) days to the MNBC Board, who can overturn the decision by a majority vote.

ARTICLE SEVEN – CENTRAL REGISTRY

- 7.1 The Ministry of Citizenship shall maintain a uniform system for the Registration of Métis Citizens;
- 7.2 The Ministry of Citizenship shall collect and maintain the information necessary to determine registration; the information to be collected is listed on the MNBC Citizenship Application Package and updated from time to time.
- 7.3 The Ministry of Citizenship may collect and register additional demographic information about Métis Citizens as, in the Ministry of Citizenship's sole discretion, is deemed necessary and/or expedient;



- 7.4 All information concerning Applicants or Métis Citizens located at the Central Registry is confidential and the Ministry of Citizenship shall adhere to or cause to be adhered to, all federal and provincial Privacy Laws;
- 7.5 The Ministry of Citizenship shall cause the Registry to be kept safely by administrative, physical, and technological safeguards that are reasonable and consistent with this Act;
- 7.6 The Ministry of Citizenship will, with the consent of the MNBC Board of Directors obtain permission from Citizens to release certain personal information of Citizens to the Provincial or Federal Governments for health and social determinants of health research purposes only, provided that each Citizen affected by that permission has been provided with an information document fully describing the information proposed by the Ministry of Citizenship to be released, including a release statement that provides that Citizen with an opportunity to decline or refuse to permit the release of the personal information proposed to be released.
- i) In the event a Citizen, having been provided with a reasonable opportunity to respond to the Ministry of Citizenship at the address provided, declines to give their consent for the information to be released, then that information will not be released.
- 7.7 Applicants may apply for Citizenship by written Application through a Chartered Community, a regional registry clerk, or directly to the Métis Nation British Columbia registry;
- 7.8 Application shall be submitted by the Chartered Community of the MNBC and/or the Regional Registry Clerk to the Ministry of Citizenship for consideration and entry into the Central Registry;
- 7.9 An Applicant whose application is not approved by the Ministry of Citizenship shall be notified, in writing of the decision;
- 7.10 An Applicant, having applied for Citizenship directly to the MNBC and whose Application the Citizenship Authority approves, shall be issued a Provincial Citizenship Card by the Central Registry and forwarded directly to the Applicant;
- 7.11 An Applicant, who has applied for MNBC Citizenship, where the application has been forwarded by a Chartered Community or Regional Registry Clerk, and whose application the Provincial Citizenship Authority approves, shall be issued a Provincial Citizenship Card by the Central Registry and forwarded directly to the Applicant;
- 7.12 Each Provincial Citizenship Card shall bear a personal and individual registration number and clearly identify which MNBC Region the Citizens resides;
- 7.13 Provincial Citizenship Cards issued pursuant this Act shall constitute the only legitimate and valid proof of Métis Citizenship to the exclusion of all other cards and/or documents of any nature;
- 7.14 Except as may be otherwise provided by this Act, the MNBC shall be solely responsible for the development and distribution of the Provincial Citizenship Application Forms and the Provincial Citizenship Card.



ARTICLE EIGHT - REGISTRY OFFICE

- 8.0 The MNBC shall establish a Citizenship Authority which shall maintain and provide Provincial Citizenship Application Forms and Provincial Citizenship Cards to Applicants or Chartered Communities when consent to Release of Personal information forms have been signed and submitted by the Applicant.

ARTICLE NINE - THE MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP

- 9.1 The Ministry of Citizenship shall be required to follow all policies and procedures developed by the MNBC and shall:
- 9.2 Receive and review applications for citizenship submitted by an Applicant on the Provincial Standardized Citizenship Application Forms and shall render a decision whether a person is entitled to be registered pursuant to this Act;
- 9.3 Be and is authorized to request and obtain Genealogical evidence and/or any other documentation and information which may be relevant to an application and the proper discharge of the Ministry of Citizenship's duties;
- 9.4 Provide a report in writing to MNGA and the MNBC upon their reasonable request;
- 9.5 Maintain the Central Registry in a suitable and proper manner;
- 9.6 Provide a written decision to the Applicant and/or the Chartered Community, as may be appropriate under the circumstances concerning an application;
- 9.7 Include with any written decision, written instruction on the procedure for commencing an appeal from a decision of the Ministry of Citizenship;
- 9.8 Be authorized to render decisions on the voluntary removal of Métis Citizens from the Central Registry;
- 9.9 Applicants whose applications are not approved for Citizenship by the Central Registry may appeal such decision to the Senate;
- 9.10 Ensure that all documentation and information in the possession of the Ministry of Citizenship with respect to the application under appeal is provided, together with the Ministry of Citizenship's report, to the Senate prior to the date upon which the appeal is to be heard;
- 9.11 Comply with any reasonable request of the Senate or of the Citizens' Appeal Committee or other appropriate Senate Tribunal for information or material concerning the Application or an appeal;
- 9.12 Supervise the staff and operation of the Registry Office;
- 9.13 Respond to any reasonable request for information from an Applicant, the appropriate Chartered Community or the MNBC concerning an application.



ARTICLE TEN - CITIZENSHIP APPEAL

- 10.0 An Applicant, Chartered Community or the MNBC may appeal a decision of the Citizenship Authority concerning the application of an Applicant for Citizenship to the Senate pursuant to the provisions of this Act or the Senate Act.

ARTICLE ELEVEN - FINANCES

- 11.0 The expenses and costs associated with the maintenance of the Ministry of Citizenship including the remuneration for the office of the Citizenship Authority and the Registry office staff shall be established by the MNBC based on the availability of fiscal resources.

ARTICLE TWELVE - ADOPTION

- 12.1 The MNBC shall accept an application for citizenship as a Métis Citizen upon applicant providing to the Citizenship Authority objectively verifiable proof of an adoption which, if accepted by the Citizenship Authority, proves that the Applicant has been adopted by a Métis Citizen or is eligible for citizenship as per the *MNBC Citizenship Act*.
- 12.2 The adopted Métis Citizen's citizenship is limited by a life estate termination, unless;
- 12.3 The adopted Métis Citizen marries a Métis Citizen, thereby which the offspring can attain their citizenship through the Métis genealogy of the other parent.
- 12.4 An adult adoption (18 years or older) is exempt from receiving Métis Citizenship as per *Article 12.0*.

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

MÉTIS NATION ELECTORAL ACT

AS RATIFIED AT THE SEPTEMBER 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





ARTICLE ONE – NAME

- 1.0 This *Electoral Act* of the Métis Nation British Columbia shall be cited as the "*MNBC Electoral Act*" and hereinafter be referred to as the "*Electoral Act*".

ARTICLE TWO – PURPOSE, SEAL AND NAME

- 2.0 The purpose of the *Electoral Act* is to establish fair, open and democratic procedures and rules for the Elections of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC).

ARTICLE THREE – DEFINITIONS

- 3.0 In this document:
- 3.1 **“Advance Poll”** means a vote held prior to the designated Election Day so as to allow those voters who may be unable to attend a Polling Station the ability to vote either by voting at a Polling Station or by Mail-in Ballot;
 - 3.2 **“Ballot”** or **“ballot”** means a paper or document representing a vote by an Elector and means vote where the context so dictates;
 - 3.3 **“Board Member”** means a person that currently holds a position on the MNBC Board of Directors.
 - 3.4 **“Board of Directors”** means the governing body of the MNBC made up of the President, Vice-President, the Regional Directors, the Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, the Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, and the Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQA+ Provincial Governance Council;
 - 3.5 **“By-Election”** means an Election to replace or fill a vacancy in the MNBC Board of Directors, the Métis Women of British Columbia, the Métis Youth of British Columbia, and/or the 2SLGBTQQA+ Provincial Governance Council when such vacancy exists as the result of a lack of nominations for candidacy at an Election or is created by the removal, resignation or disqualification of the person previously holding the office as set out in *Article 23* of the *Constitution*;
 - 3.6 **“Campaign Period”** means that period of time from the date that the MNBC Election is called and the date at which the Chief Electoral Officer declares the successful Candidates elected;
 - 3.7 **“Candidate”** means a person who is nominated and qualified to compete for an office in the Métis Nation British Columbia Election for President, Vice-President, Regional Director, Chairperson and Regional Youth Representative of Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson and Regional Representatives of the Métis Women of British Columbia, and Chairperson and Regional Representatives of the 2SLGBTQQA+ Provincial Governance Council;



- 3.8 “**Chief Electoral Officer**” means a contractor appointed in writing after final approval of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly. The Métis Nation British Columbia Board of Directors is charged with developing a call for proposals and short listing potential contractors to operate Elections for the Métis Nation British Columbia. This short list will be presented to the MNGA for final approval of the successful Chief Electoral Officer;
- 3.9 “**Conflict of Interest**” means the circumstances in which there is a real, potential or apparent conflict between the private interests of a person and the interests of the Métis Nation. This also includes circumstances in which a person represents or is a director/officer of an organization, association or party whose interests are in conflict with the interests of the MNBC;
- 3.10 “**Constitution**” means the *Constitution* of the Métis Nation British Columbia as adopted by the Métis citizens at the Annual General Meeting September 2003 and revised from time to time thereafter;
- 3.11 “**Election(s)**” means an Election or By-Election called by the Métis Nation British Columbia for the Election of a President, Vice President, Regional Directors, Chairperson and Regional Youth Representative of Métis Youth of British Columbia, and Chairperson, Regional Representatives of the Métis Women of British Columbia, and the Chairperson and Regional Representatives of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council, as set out in the Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution.
- 3.12 “**Election Day**” means the official day when the votes cast by Electors at an Election are counted;
- 3.13 “**Election Voting Period**” means, in the case of a Polling Station vote, that period of time as designated by the Chief Electoral Officer and in the case of a Mail-in Ballot or online voting Election, that period of time as set by the Chief Electoral Officer pursuant to Sub-Article 15.2 of this *Electoral Act*.
- 3.14 “**Election Officer**” means the Chief Electoral Officer, Returning Officers and Poll Clerks appointed for a particular Election or by-Election;
- 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) years of age may vote or seek elected office within the Métis Youth of British Columbia. Any self-identifying 2SLGBTQQIA+ Métis Citizen who is eighteen (18) years or older may vote or seek elected office within the Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council of British Columbia.
- 3.16 “**Interim Appointee**” means a person who is appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board



of Directors, or a MWBC Regional Representative, MYBC Regional Representative, or 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governing Council Representative, on an interim basis pursuant to the provisions of Article 46 of the *Constitution*.

- 3.17 **“Leave of Absence”** means an unpaid leave of absence for an MNBC employee, however, where applicable, an employee may use any accrued annual vacation.
- 3.18 **“List of Electors”** means a list made pursuant to this *Electoral Act* and prepared by the MNBC Central Registry of individuals entitled to vote in a Métis Nation British Columbia Election;
- 3.19 **“Mail-in ballot”** means a vote that is cast by an Elector and delivered by mail or courier to the location or individual designated by the Chief Electoral Officer in accordance with Sub- Article 5.6 herein;
- 3.20 **“Métis Citizen”** is a Métis person as defined in the *Constitution* and listed in the central registry;
- 3.21 **“Métis Community”** shall mean the Métis Nation British Columbia communities as set out in the *Constitution*;
- 3.22 **“Métis Nation British Columbia Senate”** means the judicial arm of the of the Métis Nation British Columbia and in accordance with *Senate Act*;
- 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.
- 3.24 **“Online Voting”** means a vote that is cast by an Elector using a web-based voting system;
- 3.25 **“Ordinarily Resident”** means a Métis citizen who actually lives and has lived continuously in British Columbia for at least twelve (12) full months prior to the date of the Election. In making such determination, temporary absences from British Columbia for reasons such as travel, education, medical treatment, military service or incarceration shall be considered periods of residence provided the person was ordinarily resident prior to such temporary absences. A person can have only one place of Ordinarily Residence;
- 3.26 **“Poll Book”** means a list of names of persons who have received ballots at an Election pursuant to the *Electoral Act*;
- 3.27 **“Poll Clerk”** means a person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer to assist a Returning Officer at the polls pursuant to this *Electoral Act*;
- 3.28 **“Polling Station”** means a place established by the Election Officers where Electors cast their vote or send their ballots by Mail-In Ballots in accordance with Sub-Article 5.6 herein and which is set up pursuant to the *MNBC Electoral Act*;



- 3.29 “**Region or Electoral Region**” means one of the seven (7) regions of the Métis Nation British Columbia;
- 3.30 “**Regional Director**” means a person who holds the position of Regional Director of one of the seven (7) Métis Nation British Columbia regions after being elected pursuant to the *Electoral Act* or after a By-Election pursuant to *Section 47* of the *Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution*;
- 3.31 “**Returning Officer**” means a person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer pursuant to the *Electoral Act*; and
- 3.32 “**Scrutineer**” means a person appointed in writing who is authorized to represent a Candidate’s interests at a Polling Station pursuant to the *Electoral Act*.

ARTICLE FOUR – DATE OF ELECTION

- 4.0 The date of the Election shall be established by the MNGA in conjunction with the terms outlined in the *Constitution*.

ARTICLE FIVE – CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

- 5.0 The Chief Electoral Officer shall be appointed by the MNGA to hold office for each Election. This individual shall manage and conduct an Election. The Chief Electoral Officer shall also have the responsibility of conducting any necessary By-Elections while their appointment remains in effect. The Chief Electoral Officer shall:

- 5.1 Provide guidance and supervision respecting the conduct of the Election:
- a. Create all electoral notifications, forms, ballots and documents as may be required;
 - b. Decide the eligibility of all Candidates seeking office in an Election;
 - c. Prepare the List of Electors;
 - d. Appoint Returning Officers and Poll Clerks;
 - e. Ensure that all Election Officers are in compliance with this *Electoral Act* and use the guiding principles of fairness and impartiality when conducting an Election;
 - f. Issue to Election Officers any information and guidance they consider necessary for the administration of the *Electoral Act*;
 - g. Reconcile all ballots and prepare an official Election report for the Métis Communities and Métis Nation British Columbia Board of Directors; and
 - h. Perform all duties assigned pursuant to this *Electoral Act*.
- 5.2 In addition, the Chief Electoral Officer shall:
- a. Implement public education and information activities to make the electoral process better known to the public, particularly to those persons most likely to experience difficulties in exercising their democratic rights; activities may include, but are not limited to:



- i. Working with MNBC staff to develop and distribute a voters guide for electors, that explains in plain language where, when, and how to vote;
 - ii. Newspaper advertisements in local papers where there is a Chartered Community (if available and subject to funding);
 - iii. Social media, including the purchase of ads;
 - iv. Direct mail and email notices to electors;
 - v. Arranging for virtual townhall meetings, either individually in each region, or in combination with other regions, for provincial and regional Candidates to respond to questions and comments from electors;
 - vi. Working with MNBC committees and Chartered Communities to provide outreach opportunities in their communities, especially youth outreach;
 - vii. Any other opportunities that may be requested by a Chartered Community or Region, or considered by the Chief Electoral Officer to be appropriate for all or for a specific region or Community.
 - b. The Chief Electoral Officer shall, as much as reasonably possible in as many outreach activities as possible, include information regarding the positions available for election, a description of responsibilities, and time commitments
 - c. Remove from office and replace Election Officers upon being satisfied that the officers:
 - i. Refuse, neglect or have an inability to act;
 - ii. Have failed to perform satisfactorily the duties of their office; or
 - iii. Is engaging in partisan political activities.
- 5.3 The Chief Electoral Officer shall consult with the Solicitor for the MNBC, when and if necessary with respect to issues that may arise from time to time concerning the Election process.
- 5.4 If during the course of an Election, it transpires that insufficient time has been allowed, or insufficient Election Officers or Polling Stations have been provided, for the execution of any of the purposes of the *Electoral Act*, by reason of the operation of any provision of this *Electoral Act*, the Chief Electoral Officer, notwithstanding anything in the *Electoral Act* may:
- a. Increase the number of Election Officers (subject to financial resources);
 - b. Increase the number of Polling Stations (subject to financial resources);
- 5.5 However, the Chief Electoral Officer may not extend the hour for the opening or closing of an ordinary or advance polling station, or for accepting nomination packages on nomination day or change the date of ordinary polling day.



- 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 Article 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.

ARTICLE SIX – ELECTORS

- 6.1 Any Métis Citizen of the MNBC who is Ordinarily Resident in British Columbia is eligible to be an Elector subject to *Article 6.2* herein.
- 6.2 An Elector is entitled to cast one (1) vote for the each of the following offices:
- a. President;
 - b. Vice President;
 - c. Regional Director;
 - 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 30;
 - e. Chairperson for the Métis Youth of British Columbia 15 years of age to 30.
 - f. Regional Women's representative for the Métis Women of British Columbia for the region in which the Elector is entitled to vote being female 18 years of age and older.
 - g. Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia being female eighteen (18) years of age and older
 - h. Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council for the region in which the Elector is entitled to vote being self-identified 2SLGBTQQIA+ and 18 years of age or older.



- (i) For greater certainty, identification of Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons for the purposes of voting and seeking elected office will not be kept by Métis Naiton British Columbia, and ballots will be open to all eligible voters to respond to voluntarily if they self-identify as 2SLGBTQQIA+.

6.3 Any person is eligible to vote if:

- a. A Métis person, pursuant to the *MNBC's Constitution*;
- b. No less than 18 years of age of the date of the Election;
- c. No less than 15 years of age and no more than 30 years of age for the MYBC;
- d. Any female Métis citizen who is eighteen (18) years of age or older may vote for the Métis Women of British Columbia.
- e. Any Métis Citizen who self-identifies as 2SLGBTQQIA+ and is eighteen (18) years of age or older may vote for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
- f. Registered as a Métis citizen pursuant to the *MNBC Citizenship Act*; and
- g. Ordinarily resident in British Columbia.

6.4 The following individuals are not eligible to vote in a Métis Nation British Columbia Election:

- a. Individuals who are not registered on the MNBC Central Registry;
- b. Individuals who are not 18 years of age on Election Day; with the exception of the MYBC;
- c. Individuals who are not 15 years of age and older than 30 on Election Day for the MYBC;
- d. Individuals who are not female 18 years of age and older on Election Day for the MWBC; and
- e. Individuals who are not 2SLGBTQQIA+ and 18 years of age and older on Election day.
- f. The Chief Electoral Officer;

6.5. Each Elector shall, before voting, affirm that they are a Métis Citizen of British Columbia and identify as such. In addition, electors must affirm that they are not registered under either the Indian Act or the Inuit Registry.

6.6. In the case of Online Voting, an elector shall have the option of voting by a Mail-in Ballot or at a Polling Station designated by the Chief Electoral Officer on Election day, if they are not able to vote online.

ARTICLE SEVEN – LIST OF ELECTORS

7.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall obtain from the MNBC Central Registry a final listing of registered voters no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight time on or before the 45th day. Subject only to the discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer as set out in *Article 7.7* herein, no individual shall be permitted to be included or accepted on the List of Electors after 5:00 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time, on or before the 45th day.



- 7.2 Upon receipt of the final lists as stated herein, the Chief Electoral Officer shall, from the Central registry listing, prepare a List of Electors and satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of the List of Electors.
- 7.3 On or before the 39th day before the Election Day the Chief Electoral Officer shall submit to each nominated and official Candidate for a vacancy in the Office of President, Vice President, Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Métis Women of British Columbia Chairperson, and the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Chairperson, a copy of the provincial List of Electors. Also the applicable Regional List of Electors will be provided to each of the nominated and official Candidates for a vacancy in the office of Regional Director, Regional women's representative, Regional Youth Representative, and the Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council. In addition, a copy of the applicable community List of Electors will be provided to each Métis community.
- 7.4 Electors shall vote at the Polling Station closest to where they are ordinarily resident or in the case of a Mail-in Ballot shall send their ballot by mail or courier to a location so designated by the Chief Electoral Officer within the time set by the Chief Electoral Officer as the Election Voting Period, or, in the case of Online Voting, within the time set by the Chief Electoral Officer as the Election Voting Period.
- 7.5 In the event an Elector, who, being on the List of Electors, attends a Polling Station other than the Polling Station at which their name is included on the List of Electors, the Returning Officer at that Polling Station shall deal with that Elector's ballot as set out in *Article 28* herein.
- 7.6 No individual shall be permitted to be included or accepted on the List of Electors after the 45-day timeline. The Chief Electoral Officer shall then, from the list of registered electors, prepare a List of Electors and satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of the List of Electors.
- a. The Chief Electoral officer shall submit a copy of the provincial List of Electors to each nominated and official Candidate for President, Vice-President, Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, and the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Chairperson. Also, the applicable Regional List of Electors will be provided to each of the nominated and official Candidates for a vacancy in the office of Regional Director, Regional Women's Representative, Regional Youth Representative, and the Regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
 - b. The List of Electors referred to in *Article 7.3* herein shall be provided to the Candidates no less than 39 days prior to the date of the Election;
 - c. The Chief Electoral Officer may amend the List of Electors as necessary; and
 - d. The Chief Electoral Officer shall place a copy of the List of Electors with each Métis community.



- 7.7 Upon provision of evidence to the satisfaction of the Chief Electoral Officer, of a legitimate error or omission, a Métis citizen can have their name added to, or removed from the List of Electors at any time up to fourteen (14) days prior to the Election.
- 7.8 Electors shall vote at the Polling Station closest to where they are ordinarily resident. In the event of any discrepancy, the Chief Electoral Officer shall make the determination as to which Polling Station is deemed closest. Electors may request of the Chief Electoral Officer that they be placed on the List of Electors of another polling station and such determinations shall be at the sole discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer.
- 7.9 No Métis citizens shall:
- a. Willfully apply to be included in the List of Electors in a name that is not their own; and
 - b. Willfully apply to be included in the List of Electors for a region that they are not qualified or entitled to vote as an Elector.

ARTICLE EIGHT – NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

- 8.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall, 60 days before the date of the Election, through a mail-out to all Electors and a posting on the MNBC website, provide notice of the Election and the applicable rules surrounding the Election and the preparation of the List of Electors:
- a. The place and hours fixed for the nomination of Candidates and the date fixed for closing nominations;
 - b. The positions available for election, including a description of responsibilities and time commitment.
 - c. The nomination papers required to be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer; and
 - d. The address, email and phone number of the Chief Electoral Officer.
- 8.2 Nominations of all Candidates for the Offices of President, Vice-President, Regional Directors, Chairperson or Regional Youth Representative of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson and Regional Women's Representative of the Métis Women of British Columbia, and Chairperson and Regional Representative of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall be received in writing or electronically no less than 40 days prior to the date of the Election by the Chief Electoral Officer at a location to be specified in the notice by the Chief Electoral Office.
- 8.3 Any Métis Citizen is eligible to be nominated as a Candidate if, on the day their nomination papers are filed:
- a. They are an ordinarily resident in British Columbia
 - b. Is 18 years of age or older; with the exception of the MYBC;
 - c. Any Métis citizen who is between fifteen (15) years of age and thirty (30) years of age may seek elected office within the Métis Youth of British



- Columbia, except for the office of Chairperson of the Metis Youth of British Columbia;
- d. Any Metis Citizen who is between eighteen (18) and thirty (30) years of age may seek the elected office of Chairperson of the Metis Youth of British Columbia.
 - e. Any female Métis citizen who is eighteen (18) years of age or older may seek elected office within the Métis Women of British Columbia.
 - f. Any self-identified 2SLGBTQQIA+ Métis Citizen who is eighteen (18) years of age or older may seek elected office on the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
 - g. If they are seeking to be nominated as a Candidate for President, Vice-President, Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, or Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council, they have been a resident of the Métis Community in British Columbia for not less than one year;
 - h. If they are seeking to be nominated as a Candidate for a Regional Director, or Regional Youth Representative of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, or, Regional Women's Representative of the Métis Women of British Columbia has been a resident of the Métis Community of the Region they are seeking nomination for not less than 6 months;
 - i. If, they are a salaried employee of MNBC:
 - i. Have provided a written notice of intention to stand as a candidate to the CEO of MNBC no later than fifteen (15) days before the close of nominations;
 - ii. At the close of nomination, has provided written notice of a leave of absence to the CEO of MNBC:
 - i. MNBC will grant the leave of absence for the salaried position;
 - ii. The Citizen, if they receive employment benefits as part of their employment with MNBC, is entitled to all their employee benefits while they are a candidate, save for pay.
 - iii. If the Citizen is elected, they must resign their position with MNBC within thirty (30) days of the date of the election, and before being sworn into office.
 - j. If, they are currently serving as an independent contractor with MNBC, they have submitted notice of termination of all current contracts at the close of nominations.
 - k. At the close of nomination has provided a letter of resignation to the CEO for any salaried (contractor or employment) position held within the MNBC;
 - l. In accordance with *Article 23.7* of the *MNBC Constitution*, has provided a criminal record check satisfactory to the Chief Electoral Officer in accordance with *Articles 45* and *23.7* of the *MNBC Constitution*; and
 - m. Is registered with the Métis Nation British Columbia Central registry pursuant to the *Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act*.

8.4 All nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson of the Métis Women of British



Columbia, and Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall include:

- a. Written acceptance of the nomination by the Candidate;
- b. A minimum of twenty (20) original signatures of Electors who reside in the Province of British Columbia, who are not signatories of another Candidate's nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate seeks to be nominated for the position of President and Vice President;
- c. A minimum of ten (10) original signatures of electors who reside in the Province of British Columbia, who are not signatories of another Candidate's nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate seeks to be nominated for the chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia;
- d. A minimum of ten (10) original signatures of female electors who reside in the Province of British Columbia, who are not signatories of another Candidate's nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate seeks to be nominated for the chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia;
- e. A minimum of ten (10) original signatures of 2SLGBTQQIA+ electors who reside in the Province of British Columbia, who are not signatories of another Candidate's nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate seeks to be nominated for the chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.

8.5 All nominations for Regional Directors, Regional Youth Representative of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Regional Women's Representative of the Métis Women of British Columbia and Regional representative of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall include:

- a. Written acceptance of the nomination by the Candidate;
- b. A minimum of ten (10) signatures of Electors who reside in the region for which the Candidate seeks to be nominated, who are not signatories of another Candidate's Nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate for Regional Director seeks to be nominated;
- c. A minimum of three (3) signatures of electors who reside in the region for which the Candidate seeks to be nominated, who are not signatories of another Candidates nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate for the Regional Youth Representative of the Métis Youth of British Columbia seeks to be nominated.
- d. A minimum of five (5) signatures of female electors who reside in the region for which the Candidate seeks to be nominated, who are not signatories of another Candidates nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election at which the Candidate for the Regional Women's Representative of the Métis Women of British Columbia.
- e. A minimum of three (3) signatures of electors who reside in the region for which the Candidate seeks to be nominated, who are not signatories of another Candidates nomination papers for the same position and who are eligible to vote in the Election in which the Candidate for the Regional Representative for



the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council seeks to be nominated.

- 8.6 A Candidate may not accept a nomination for more than one position on the MNBC Board of Directors, the Métis Youth of British Columbia, the Métis Women of British Columbia, or the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council.
- a. If a current Board Member wishes to stand as a candidate in a by-election, they must resign their current position on the Board of Directors at the date the elections is announced.
- 8.7 No Métis citizen may accept or place a nomination for a position on the Métis Nation British Columbia Board of Directors, the Métis Youth of British Columbia, the Métis Women of British Columbia, or the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council if that person is or was, at any time during the one year period prior to the date of the Election, a director or officer of another provincial Métis body or association, other than a Métis community, whereby being a director or officer, the Candidate would constitute circumstances in which a real, potential or apprehended conflict of interest would arise. The Chief Electoral Officer shall determine whether circumstances exist under which a real, potential or apprehended conflict of interest would arise.
- The Chief Electoral Officer shall determine whether circumstances exist under which a real, potential or apprehended conflict of interest would arise.
- 8.8 Candidates who use malicious or objectionable practice or conduct themselves in a malicious or objectionable manner during the Campaign Period shall be subject to disqualification at the discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer.
- 8.9 Candidates shall not be permitted to use the offices or equipment of the MNBC or any program delivery offices for the purposes of presenting or advancing their campaign at any time during the campaign period.
- 8.10 Upon election, by vote or acclamation, as a Regional Women's or Youth Representative, a Citizen who holds the position of President or Vice-President on a Chartered Community Board must immediately resign from that position.

ARTICLE NINE – ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION

- 9.1. If only one Candidate is nominated for any one office at the close of nominations the Chief Electoral Officer shall declare that Candidate acclaimed to office, the day following the close of nominations.

ARTICLE TEN – NO CANDIDATES NOMINATED

- 10.1. If, after the close of nominations there are offices that remain without Candidates or without persons elected by acclamation, the Chief Electoral Officer shall set another day for the receipt of nominations for the remaining offices subject to available funding. Nominations shall be received for an Election to be held no earlier than three (3) months and no later than six (6) months from the date of the original Election and shall follow the processes and rules set out in this *Electoral Act*.



ARTICLE ELEVEN – POSTING OF NOTICE OF POLL & CANDIDATES

- 11.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall, within five (5) days after the close of nominations, post on the MNBC website a notice indicating the names of the Candidates, the voting method options, and the date and time for voting.
- 11.2 Candidates whose nominations are accepted by the Chief Electoral Officer shall be entitled to receive a copy of the applicable List of Electors, a copy of the *Electoral Act* and other materials as deemed appropriate by the Chief Electoral Officer.

ARTICLE TWELVE – WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATE

- 12.1. A Candidate may withdraw at any time up to twenty-one (21) days prior to Election Day by filing with the Chief Electoral Officer a written, signed and witnessed declaration to that effect.
- 12.2. When a Candidate has withdrawn, the Chief Electoral Officer shall take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that Electors are advised when receiving a ballot.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN – DEATH OF CANDIDATE

- 13.1. If a Candidate for the position of President, Vice-President, Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, or Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council dies after close of nominations and prior to closing of the Polling Stations on Election Day, the Election shall be held.
- 13.2. If a Candidate for Regional Director, Regional Youth Representative of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Regional Women's Representative of the Métis Women of British Columbia, or the Regional Representative of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council dies after close of nominations and prior to closing of the Polling Stations on Election Day, the Election shall be held.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN – APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND POLL CLERK

- 14.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall appoint a Returning Officer and a Poll Clerk for each location where a Polling Station is to be established in the electoral region, or in the case of a Mail-in Ballot in accordance with Sub-Article 5.6 herein the Chief Electoral Officer shall appoint a Returning Officer and Poll Clerks for the location designated to receive ballots.
 - a. The Returning Officer with assistance from a Poll Clerk is responsible for the conduct at a Polling Station in an electoral region.
 - b. The following persons shall not be appointed as either a Returning Officer or a Poll Clerk:
 - i. A person who is the spouse, child, brother, sister, mother, father, common-law partner, or individual who lives with any Candidate;



- ii. A member of the Métis Nation British Columbia Senate;
 - iii. An individual who is a Candidate or a Candidate's representative.
 - iv. A person who is the spouse, child, brother, sister, mother, father, common-law partner, or who lives with either a Returning Officer or Poll Clerk, shall not be appointed for the same Polling Station location.
- 14.2 A person appointed, as either a Returning Officer or Poll Clerk shall hold office from the time appointed until thirty (30) days after the Election Day.
- 14.3 The Chief Electoral Officer may remove from office any Returning Officer or Poll Clerk who:
- a. Is incapable, by reason of illness, of satisfactorily performing their duties under the *Electoral Act*;
 - b. Fails to discharge competently their duties as Returning Officer or Poll Clerk so as to comply with an instruction of the Chief Electoral Officer;
 - c. Knowingly makes a contribution to a Candidate's campaign whether or not the contravention occurs in the exercise of his or her duties under the Act.
- 14.4 Where a vacancy occurs in the office of Returning Officer or Poll Clerk, the Chief Electoral Officer shall forthwith appoint another person to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN – POLLING HOURS

- 15.1. Polling shall begin at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time or Mountain Daylight Time in accordance with the particular time zone on the date of the Election and close at 8:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time or Mountain Daylight Time on that same day.
- 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.
- 15.2 In the case of an Election by Mail-in Ballot, Electors shall be able to mail or deliver their ballots to the location or locations established by the Chief Electoral Officer within such specified period of time as may be established by the Chief Electoral Officer but in any event such period of time shall not be less than fourteen (14) calendar days.
- 15.3 In the case of an Election by Online Voting System, Voters shall be able to vote within such specified period of time as may be established by the Chief Electoral Officer but in any event such period of time shall not be less than 14 calendar days.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN – LOCATION OF POLLING STATIONS

- 16.1. A Polling Station shall be in a location that in the determination of the Chief Electoral Officer is convenient for the Electors.
- 16.2. In the case of an Election by Mail-in Ballot there shall be a location or locations established by the Chief Electoral Officer for the purpose of receiving Mail-In Ballots.



- 16.3. In the case of online voting, the system used shall be secure.
- 16.4. A final List of the Polling Stations will be listed twenty-one (21) days prior to the Election Date.
- 16.5. Best efforts will be made to ensure that every Polling Station will be accessible to persons who have a disability that could affect their ability to vote on the Election date.
- 16.6. No Polling Station may be located in the following places:
 - a. Premises where alcohol or spirits are served; or
 - b. Premises in which a Candidate has an interest.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN – SCRUTINEERS

- 17.1. Each Candidate may appoint Scrutineers in writing to the Chief Electoral Officer to represent them at each Polling Station, and to observe the Election procedures on their behalf.
 - a. A Candidate may appoint more than one Scrutineer to attend a particular Polling Station while voting is in progress but only one Scrutineer per Candidate may be present in the polling area at any one time.
 - b. A Candidate shall supply their scrutineer with a form approved for such use by the Chief Electoral Officer, appointing them as a scrutineer. If scrutineers are only present for part of a day and are replaced by another scrutineer, the replacement scrutineer must have their own form to show the Returning Officer.
- 17.2. Scrutineers may observe the operation of the Polling Station and observe the counting of the ballots.
- 17.3. In the case of a Mail-in Ballot Election a Candidate may appoint up to 2 scrutineers to be present at the designated location or locations during the opening of the ballot boxes and the counting of the ballots.

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN – BALLOT BOXES

- 18.1. The Chief Electoral Officer shall provide each Returning Officer with a ballot box to conduct the Election in his or her region. The ballot box shall be made of durable non-see-through material and accompanied by a sufficient number of appropriate seals. The ballot box shall permit the deposit of ballots but not permit their removal without breaking the seals after they have been attached.

ARTICLE NINETEEN – CONTENTS OF BALLOTS

- 19.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall ensure that a sufficient number of ballots are prepared for an Election.



- 19.2 Each ballot shall be printed in the English language and shall contain the name of the Candidates which shall be arranged with the Candidates for the Offices of President, Vice-President, Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Chairperson of the Métis Women's Secretariat-British Columbia, or Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council located first and arranged alphabetically in order of their surnames. The Candidates for Regional Director, Regional Youth Representative of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, Regional Women's Representative of the Métis Women's Secretariat-British Columbia, or Regional Representative of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council shall be located second and arranged alphabetically in the order of their surnames.
- 19.3 If two (2) or more Candidates for the same office have the same surnames, their names shall be listed in alphabetical order according to their given names.
- 19.4 Ballots shall be printed on one side only.

ARTICLE TWENTY – POLLING BOOTHS

- 20.1. Each Polling Station shall contain one or more polling booths arranged so that when an Elector is in the polling booth they are screened from observation and may mark their ballot without interference.
- 20.2. In each polling booth, Electors will be provided with a suitable table, desk or shelf and a suitable marking instrument for marking their ballots. These materials shall be properly maintained during polling hours.

ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE – MATERIAL AT POLLING STATION

- 21.1 The Returning Officer shall before the opening of the Poll ensure the following are available:
- a. An area where Electors can mark their ballots in private;
 - b. A document providing voting instructions for Electors;
 - c. A Poll Book where the names of all Electors who vote are to be entered;
 - d. A copy of the final List of Electors;
 - e. A ballot box or ballot boxes as required;
 - f. Tape to secure the ballot box or ballot boxes until the ballots are ready to be counted;
 - g. A sufficient number of ballot papers;
 - h. The material necessary to enable Electors to mark the ballot papers;
 - i. Instructions for the Returning Officers and Poll Clerks; and
 - j. Such other forms, office stationery and materials as may be required to enable the Returning Officer to perform their duties.



ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO – PERSONS ENTITLED TO REMAIN IN POLLING AREA

- 22.1 Only the following individuals may remain in a polling area during polling hours:
- a. Returning Officer;
 - b. Poll Clerk;
 - c. Chief Electoral Officer;
 - d. One Scrutineer per Candidate; and
 - e. Interpreters.
- 22.2 Nothing in this *Electoral Act* restricts a Candidate from briefly visiting a Polling Station during polling hours.

ARTICLE TWENTY-THREE – SECRET BALLOT

- 23.1 Voting shall be by secret ballot and in the case of an Election by Mail-in Ballot, a double envelope system as defined by the Chief Electoral Officer shall be used by Electors to send their ballots to the designated location or locations for receiving ballots.
- 23.2 In the case of online voting, the voter shall be required to authenticate their identity. Their identity and the personal authenticity information of the voter shall remain confidential.
- 23.3 No person in attendance at a Polling Station or at the counting of votes shall fail to maintain or fail to aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting.

ARTICLE TWENTY-FOUR – SECRECY OF VOTING

- 24.1 Each Returning Officer, Poll Clerk, Candidate and/or Scrutineer in attendance at a Polling Station or at the counting of the ballots shall assist in maintaining the secrecy of the voting process and they shall not communicate or attempt to communicate any information obtained at the Polling Station regarding which Candidate an Elector has voted for or is about to vote for.
- 24.2 Returning Officers and Poll Clerks shall not communicate any information obtained at the counting of the ballots to any person other than the Chief Electoral Officer or those in their office.

ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE – OPENING OF POLLING STATION - DISPLAY OF BALLOT BOX

- 25.1 Each Returning Officer shall attend the Polling Station at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the opening of his or her Polling Station.
- 25.2 During the 30 minutes immediately prior to the opening of the Polling Station, the Returning Officer shall show the ballot box to Candidates, Scrutineers and other persons entitled to be present so that they may see that the ballot box is empty.



- 25.3. After the ballot box has been shown, it shall be locked or sealed for receipt of ballots and at all times during the hours of voting.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SIX – ADVANCE POLLS

- 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 Article 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
- a. 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.



ARTICLE TWENTY-SEVEN – POLL BOOKS

- 27.1 Each Returning Officer shall be provided with a Poll Book in which the Returning Officer or the Poll Clerk shall enter the names of all Electors who attend the Polling Station and apply to vote unless those names are previously printed therein. The Returning Officer or Poll Clerk shall record whether those Electors are objected to or vouched for and by whom and if objected to whether the Elector voted or not.

ARTICLE TWENTY-EIGHT – GENERAL PROCEDURES AT POLLING STATION

- 28.1 Where an Elector presents themselves at the Polling Station for the purpose of voting, the voting process shall proceed as follows:
- a. Each Elector shall present their MNBC Citizenship Card for the purpose of proving their identity and Métis citizenship to the Returning Officer.
 - b. The Returning Officer shall ascertain whether the name of the person applying to vote (the “Applicant”) is on the List of Electors and, if it is,
 - c. Each eligible Elector shall be given a ballot to be marked clearly, in secret, for the Candidate of that Elector’s choice which thereafter shall be placed in a ballot box as instructed by the Returning Officer.
 - d. If the Applicant’s name is not on the List of Electors, the Returning Officer shall not permit that person to vote unless the Applicant can present a valid MNBC Citizenship Card that can be verified by the Returning Officer as being the MNBC Citizenship Card of the Applicant.
 - e. In the event that the Applicant can produce a valid MNBC Citizenship Card, the Returning Officer shall record, in the proper column of the Poll Book, the Applicant’s name, address and MNBC Citizenship number and shall provide that Applicant with a ballot paper on which the Applicant shall clearly mark, in secret, the Applicant’s choice of Candidate.
 - f. Upon being presented with a completed ballot by a person who is not on the List of Electors at the Polling Station where the Applicant has attended to vote and was permitted to vote by the Returning Officer, the Returning Officer shall:
 - i. Place the Applicant’s ballot in an envelope with the Applicant’s name, the date and time noted;
 - ii. Place that envelope into another envelope that shall be kept separate from the ballots cast by Electors (whose names were located on the List of Electors for that Polling Station) and forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer for verification of the eligibility of the Applicant.
 - g. If verified as eligible by the Chief Electoral Officer, the Applicant’s vote shall be counted.
 - h. Any Candidate or their scrutineer may object to the eligibility of any Métis citizen requesting a ballot. If in the opinion of the Returning Officer such objection is reasonable, it shall be noted in the Poll Book and shall include the reason for the objection along with the name of the Candidate on whose behalf the objection is being made. The Returning Officer may then give the Métis



Citizen a ballot paper so that the Métis Citizen may cast their ballot. In the event of an objection to the Métis Citizen, the Returning Officer shall follow the procedure under *Article 36.7* of this *Electoral Act*.

- i. The Returning Officer shall record the names and obtain the signatures of all persons who, although deemed ineligible to vote, attended at the Polling Station and requested a ballot.”

ARTICLE TWENTY-NINE – CONDUCT AT POLLING STATION

- 29.1. No person shall interfere or attempt to interfere with an Elector who is marking their ballot or casting their vote or otherwise make any attempt to obtain, at the Polling Station, information as to the Candidate or Candidates for whom an Elector at that Polling Station is about to vote or has voted.
 - a. No individual shall, directly or indirectly, threaten to inflict injury, damage, harm or loss on or against an Elector so as to persuade or compel the Elector to vote or refrain from voting, or because the Elector voted or refrained from voting.
- 29.2. No person shall, having voted, apply at the same Election for a ballot paper in the Elector’s own name, or vote more than once at the same Election.
- 29.3. No individual shall vote knowing that they have no right to vote, or induce or persuade any other individual to vote knowing that the other individual has no right to vote.
- 29.4. No person shall apply at an Election for a ballot paper in the name of another person, whether living or dead, or a fictitious person.
- 29.5. The campaign office of a Candidate must not be within one (1) kilometer of a Polling Station.
- 29.6. There shall be no campaigning in or in the vicinity of a Polling Station on Election Day.
- 29.7. Every Returning Officer and Poll Clerk is responsible for maintaining peace and order in their Polling Station during an Election.
- 29.8. During an Election, no Candidate or other person on behalf of a Candidate shall, directly or indirectly, or as an accessory, give or cause to be given any alcohol or spirits to or for any person, for the purpose of persuading that person to vote for the Candidate or for the purpose of influencing that person or any other person to vote or refrain from voting at an Election.
- 29.9. No Candidate shall make or take a share or interest in a bet or wager based on the result of the Election.
- 29.10. Any person in breach of *Article 29* of this *Electoral Act* will be removed from the Polling Station and will not be entitled to vote.



ARTICLE THIRTY – EXPLANATION OF VOTING

- 30.1 The Returning Officer may and upon request shall, either personally or through their Poll Clerk explain to the Elector as concisely as possible the way in which voting is to be performed.

ARTICLE THIRTY-ONE – VOTING BY A DISABLED PERSON

- 31.1. Where an Elector on the List of Electors comes to a Polling Station to vote and is unable to mark a ballot due to an inability to read or has a physical or mental disability, the Returning Officer shall:
- a. Have a friend or relative complete an Elector Assistance Form indicating the name of the Elector, their own name and the reason the person is incapable of voting alone;
 - b. Permit that person to accompany the Elector into the polling area to mark the ballot in accordance with the Elector's instructions;
 - c. Receive the completed ballot, check their initials and place the ballot in the ballot box; and
 - d. Enter the reason the Elector was permitted to vote in this manner, and the name of the person who assisted the Elector, in the Poll Book.
- 31.2. An individual other than an Election Officer must not act to assist more than one Elector in an Election to mark a ballot unless the individual is assisting more than one member of their family.

ARTICLE THIRTY-TWO – APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERPRETER

- 32.1 Where the Returning Officer has been given thirty (30) days advance notice by a Métis Community or an Elector in that Métis Community, that an Elector or Electors who are unable to speak or read the English Language may present themselves at a Polling Station, subject always to availability, an interpreter may be provided by the Returning Officer for the purpose of explaining to those Electors, questions and answers concerning voting in the following languages: Michif, French or Cree.
- 32.2. The interpreter must make a solemn declaration that they are able to make the translation and will do so to the best of their abilities.
- 32.3. Every interpreter shall make a declaration of secrecy.

ARTICLE THIRTY-THREE – REMOVAL OF BALLOT FROM POLLING STATION

- 33.1. Except in the case of a Mail-in Ballot an Elector who has received a ballot paper shall not take it out of the Polling Station.

ARTICLE THIRTY-FOUR – FORFEITURE OF VOTING RIGHTS

- 34.1. Where an Elector leaves the Polling Station without first delivering their ballot paper to the Returning Officer or returns it after declining to vote, they forfeit their right to vote



and the Returning Officer shall make an entry in the Poll Book in the column for remarks to the effect that the Elector received the ballot paper, but took it out of the Polling Station or returned it declining to vote.

- 34.2. Where an Elector returns their ballot paper declining to vote, the Returning Officer shall immediately write the word “declined” upon it and preserve the ballot paper.

ARTICLE THIRTY-FIVE – SPOILED BALLOT

- 35.1. An Elector, who upon voting, has inadvertently spoiled their ballot paper may on returning it to the Returning Officer obtain another ballot paper and the Returning Officer shall immediately write the word “spoiled” upon the returned ballot paper and preserve it as set out in this Article.

ARTICLE THIRTY-SIX – PROCEDURE ON CLOSE OF POLL

- 36.1. After the closing of the poll, the Returning Officer shall, in the presence of the Poll Clerk and any Candidate and/or Scrutineers who may be present, immediately:
- a. Count the number of spoiled and declined ballots and record the total on the outside of the envelope containing these ballots and then seal it; and comply with the procedures as set out in Article 28 herein.
- 36.2. On complying with subsection 36.1, the Returning Officer shall count the number of Electors whose name appears on the List of Electors and the number of Electors recorded in the Poll Book as having voted and those persons who having attended were deemed ineligible to vote and shall draw a line immediately under the last name in the Poll Book and affix their initials to the list.
- 36.3. On complying with *Subsection 36.2*, the Returning Officer shall open the ballot box and proceed with a count of vote and record the result.
- 36.4. The Returning Officer shall endorse with the words “not initialed” any ballot paper that does not have their initials or the initials of such person acting on their behalf on the back thereof and any such ballot shall be counted with the other ballots but immediately upon the conclusion of the count, the Returning Officer shall:
- a. Count the number of “not initialed” ballots, and
 - b. Record the total on the outside of the envelope containing these ballots and seal it.
- 36.5. In counting votes, the Returning Officer shall reject any ballot that:
- a. Was not supplied by them;
 - b. Does not indicate any vote for any Candidate;
 - c. Contains votes for more Candidates than are to be elected;
 - d. Is so marked, that it is uncertain for which Candidate the vote was cast; and



- e. Contains any writing or mark enabling the Elector to be readily identified.
- 36.6 Notwithstanding *Subsection 36.5*, a ballot shall not be rejected:
- a. By reason of any writing, numbering or mark omitted by the Returning Officer; or
 - b. When the vote, though incorrectly made on the ballot, clearly indicates the Elector's intention to vote for one particular Candidate.
- 36.7 In the event the Returning Officer determines that an Elector's right to vote has been reasonably disputed pursuant to *Article 28*, the Returning Officer shall make a note in the Poll Book of every objection and the name of any Candidate on whose behalf such objection was made. The Returning Officer shall place such ballot in a special envelope that shall, on its cover, contain the name of the Elector, their MNBC Citizenship number, the name of the Polling Station and the Returning Officer initials. Such envelopes shall be preserved by the Returning Officer and forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer. The Returning Officer shall also forward the specific objection to such Elector, as noted in the Poll Book. The Chief Electoral Officer shall investigate the objection of such Elector and in the event the Chief Electoral Officer determines that the objection is valid, the ballot shall be placed in a separate envelope and shall not be counted. If the Chief Electoral Officer determines that the objection is without merit, the envelope shall be opened and the Chief Electoral Officer shall count the vote(s).
- 36.8 The Returning Officer at the conclusion of the count shall complete a statement of poll, indicating the number of votes for each Candidate, which shall be signed by the Returning Officer and Poll Clerk. The Returning Officer shall then immediately inform the Chief Electoral Officer, by phone or by fax, as to the number of votes for each Candidate, the number of spoiled ballots and any disputed Electors.
- 36.9 A copy of the statement of poll shall be attached to the Poll Book and one page shall be retained by the Returning Officer to be sent to the Chief Electoral Officer.
- 36.10 Upon completion of the statement of poll, the Returning Officer shall in presence of the persons authorized to be present, place into separate packets the:
- a. Statement of poll;
 - b. The ballots objected to but counted;
 - c. The ballots objected to but not counted;
 - d. The rejected ballots not objected to;
 - e. The rejected ballots objected to;
 - f. The spoiled and declined ballots;
 - g. The discarded ballots;
 - h. The unused ballots;
 - i. The envelopes containing the ballots of those persons who voted in accordance with *Article 28* herein;
 - j. The Poll Book with the declaration of the Returning Officer therein;
 - k. The List of Electors used at the poll;
 - l. The declaration of Electors;



- m. The statement of the number of Electors as marked by the Returning Officer as “Voter assistance”;
 - n. The notes taken of objections to ballot papers found in the ballot box; and
 - o. All other documents that were completed prepared or used at the Election.
- 36.11 The Returning Officer shall seal each of the envelopes mentioned in *Section 36.10* with their own seal and initial the outside of the envelopes.
- 36.12 The Returning Officer shall mark on the outside of each of the envelopes a short statement of the contents of the envelopes, the date and name of the Election and their name.
- 36.13 The Returning Officer shall then return all envelopes and relevant documents to the Chief Electoral Officer as directed.

ARTICLE THIRTY-SEVEN – ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOTE

- 37.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall publicly announce the results of the Election and declare elected the Candidates who received the largest number of votes.
- 37.2 When the original reports and ballots have been received from the Returning Officers, the Chief Electoral Officer shall check the reports, but not the ballots, and verify or confirm the results.

ARTICLE THIRTY-EIGHT – RECOUNT

- 38.1 Subject to *Article 37.2* herein, the Chief Electoral Officer shall recount the ballots where applicable if the Chief Electoral Officer decides that there is a need for a recount or if they receive a written request to recount from a Candidate within seven (7) days from the date of the Election;
- 38.2 A Candidate shall be entitled to require a recount if:
 - a. The Candidate has been nominated to contest the position of President, Vice-President, Chairperson of the Métis Women of British Columbia, the Chairperson of the Métis Youth of British Columbia, or the Chairperson of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council;
 - b. The Candidate has been nominated to contest the position of Regional Director, Regional Representative for the Métis Women of British Columbia (MWBC), Regional Youth Representative for the Métis Youth of British Columbia, or Regional Representative for the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council;
 - c. There are no more than fifteen (15) votes difference between the Candidate who has the most votes for that position and the Candidate requesting a recount; and
 - d. Two (2) or more Candidates for the same position have an equal number of votes, the Chief Electoral Officer shall declare a tie and conduct a recount.



ARTICLE THIRTY-NINE – RECOUNT PROCEDURE AND TIE BREAKING VOTE

- 39.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall give written notice to each Candidate of the place, date and hour of the recount
- 39.2 The recount shall, if possible, be held within the next seven (7) days from receipt of a Candidate's written request for a recount.
- 39.3 No person may be allowed in the room where the recount is being conducted except the following:
- a. The Chief Electoral Officer;
 - b. The Returning Officer (at the CEO recommendation);
 - c. The Candidates or an Elector appointed in writing to be present on behalf of each of the Candidates.
- 39.4 In recounting the ballots, the Chief Electoral Officer shall follow the same counting rules that a Returning Officer is required to follow under this *Electoral Act*.
- 39.5 The Chief Electoral Officer will be required to set another Election Day in the event of a tie between two or more Candidates receiving the most votes for the same position. The Election in that event would be conducted solely for the purpose of filling the subject position and only the tied Candidates would be eligible to run. Such Election shall be held no earlier than three (3) months and no later than six (6) months from the date of the original Election and shall follow the process and rules set out in this *Electoral Act*.

ARTICLE FORTY – ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECOUNT RESULTS

- 40.1 Upon the completion of any and all recounts, the Chief Electoral Officer shall certify the final results of the Election publicly announce the results of the recount and declare the names of the successful Candidate who received the largest number of votes.

ARTICLE FORTY-ONE – DESTROYING BALLOTS

- 41.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall destroy all ballots ninety (90) days from the date of the Election unless:
- a. Directed by an order of a Court; or
 - b. Directed by an order of the Senate; or
 - c. A request for a recount is received in which case the ballots shall be destroyed after ninety (90) days from the date of the recount unless otherwise ordered.

ARTICLE FORTY-TWO – ELECTION APPEAL

- 42.1 Decisions of the Chief Electoral Officer during an Election may be appealed to the Métis Nation British Columbia Senate.



- a. The Chief Electoral Officer will have the authority to refuse Candidates and voters who do not meet the required eligibility pre-requisites and deadlines set out in the *MNBC Electoral Act*.
 - b. All Candidates or electors refused will have the option to file a written Election appeal before the Métis Nation British Columbia Senate.
- 42.2 A Candidate or elector will have fourteen (14) days from the date of the Election or fourteen Days from the date of the recount to file a written Election appeal before the MNBC Senate.
 - a. The written appeal sent to the MNBC Senate should outline the rationale of the Election appeal, along with any documents or other materials that should assist the appeal.
 - b. As part of filing an Election appeal, the Candidate or elector shall deposit with the MNBC Finance Department the sum of \$150.00 in cash or money order. This deposit is non-refundable and serves as security for administrative costs in connection with carrying out the appeal process.
- 42.3 The Chief Electoral Officer will provide information at the request of the MNBC Senate during the Election appeals process so as to deliver a fair and balanced decision.
 - a. The Chief Electoral Officer will be responsible in providing reasons for refusal as supported by the Articles in the *Electoral Act*.
 - b. The MNBC Senate reserves the right to set a date when the Candidate or elector who filed the Election appeal may present their arguments in person. The onus to prove the appeal to the satisfaction of the MNBC is upon the individual who filed the Election appeal.

ARTICLE FORTY-THREE – GENERAL

- 43.1 The appeal will not be successful if it is shown that the Election was conducted in accordance with this *Election Act* and that the irregularity, failure, non-compliance or mistake did not materially affect the result of the Election, and no Election is void by reason of:
 - a. Failure to publish, late distribution or non-receipt of the Métis communities;
 - b. A failure to hold a poll at any place appointed for holding a poll;
 - c. A non-compliance with the provisions of this *Electoral Act* relating to the counting of the votes or with regard to limitations of time; or
 - d. Any mistake in the use of the prescribed forms.

ARTICLE FORTY-FOUR – INTERPRETATION

- 44.1. Unless the context otherwise requires, words imparting the singular number shall include the plural number, as the case may be, and vice-versa.



ARTICLE FORTY-FIVE – REGULATORY AUTHORITY

45. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly may, by resolution, make election rules regarding matters not specifically set out in the *Electoral Act*. Such rules will expire 30 days after election day for the election they pertain to.

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

MÉTIS NATION NATURAL RESOURCES ACT

AS RATIFIED SEPTEMBER 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





ARTICLE ONE – TITLE

- 1.0 This Act is cited as “Métis Nation British Columbia - Natural Resource Act.”

ARTICLE TWO – INTERPRETATIONS

- 2.0 In this Act and subsequent Addendums and Regulations:
- 2.1 “**Act**” means the *MNBC Natural Resource Act*.
 - 2.2 “**Addendums**” are Ministerial approved supplements to the *Natural Resource Act* that enables the development of annually renewed, low-level legislation.
 - 2.3 “**BCMANR**” means the British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources which is a non-political committee that manages the natural resources on behalf of the MNBC.
 - 2.4 “**Captain’s Assembly**” consists of the eight voting regional Captains of the Hunt.
 - 2.5 “**Captain of the Hunt**” means a MNBC citizen who has been selected, through the BCMANR Policies and Procedures, and endorsed by the Regional Governance Council of their respective region.
 - 2.6 “**Constitution**” means the *Constitution* of the MNBC as amended from time to time.
 - 2.7 “**Issuer**” means a person that is delegated the authority by BCMANR to issue licensing, tags and permits.
 - 2.8 “**Legislation**” means legislative documents, laws and/or acts including amendments to existing legislative documents, laws and/or acts and, for the purposes of this Act, will include draft or proposed Legislation.
 - 2.9 “**MNBC**” means the Métis Nation British Columbia which represents and/or is comprised of the Métis Citizens of British Columbia and which is governed by the provisions of the *Constitution*.
 - 2.10 “**Métis Citizen**” as defined by the *MNBC Citizenship Act*.
 - 2.11 “**Minister of Environmental Protection**” means the MNBC Board Member that has been assigned the Environmental Protection and Métis Rights Ministry.
 - 2.12 “**Minister of Economic Development and Natural Resources**” means the MNBC Board Member that has been assigned the Natural Resource Ministry.
 - 2.13 “**Ministry of Environmental Protection**” means the MNBC Secretariat department that is responsible for all environmental protection regulations and policy, under the authority of the Minister of Environmental Protection (political), Senior Director of Environmental Protection (technical) and BCMANR.



- 2.14 **“Ministry of Economic Development and Natural Resources”** means the MNBC Secretariat department that is responsible for all natural resource issues under the authority of the Minister of Economic Development and Natural Resources (political), Senior Director of Economic Development and Natural Resources (technical) and BCMANR.
- 2.15 **“Parties”** for the purpose of consultation means government, proponents, regulatory agencies and other external entities whose mandate includes Aboriginal consultation.
- 2.16 **“Region”** means a MNBC Region as determined by the *Constitution*.
- 2.17 **“Regulation”** is the annually renewed provincial and regional rules that manage the Métis harvest.
- 2.18 **“Senate”** means the MNBC Senate.
- 2.19 **“Senior Director of Economic Development and Natural Resources”** means a person that is employed by the MNBC Secretariat and has expertise and experience in the natural resource section.
- 2.20 **“Senior Director of Environmental Protection”** means a person that is employed by the MNBC Secretariat with the requisite expertise and experience in environmental protection.
- 2.21 **“Youth”** for the purpose of harvesting under the authority of this *Act* and to provide consistency with existing provincial and federal government legislation (i.e. *B.C. Wildlife Act*) means a Métis Citizen between the ages of 10-18 years of age.

ARTICLE THREE – PURPOSE OF THE ACT

- 3.0 The purpose of this Act is to provide Métis specific legislative authority for the regulated management of all natural resources in British Columbia which are utilized by the Métis Citizens, thus;
- 3.1 Establish natural resource regulation, policy and guidelines by combining both Métis traditional knowledge and western-based science management principles;
- 3.2 Institute sound conservation practices and measures;
- 3.3 Protect the sustenance and cultural needs of the Métis Citizens in British Columbia;
- 3.4 Ensure adequate consultation on all natural resource issues.

ARTICLE FOUR – FINANCES

- 4.0 The financial requirements for MNBC’s Ministry of Environmental Protection shall be satisfied as follows:
- 4.1 Where fiscal resources are available, the MNBC, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the MNBC Financial Policies and Procedures, shall provide financial resources to BCMANR as required for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of



this Act.

- 4.2 Such resources shall be within the means available to the MNBC for such purposes.
- 4.3 The Senior Director of Environmental Protection shall make a formal written request to the MNBC for all expenditures of BCMANR.
- 4.4 The MNBC shall actively pursue financial resources for the functions of BCMANR and the Ministry of Environmental Protection.
- 4.5 The MNBC will be responsible for travel expenses and honorariums for BCMANR while conducting official BCMANR business, pursuant to this Act.

ARTICLE FIVE – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

5.0 In this Act:

- 5.1 BCMANR shall keep written minutes of all meetings, and shall issue these minutes to the Senior Directors and Ministers of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.
- 5.2 All decisions of BCMANR shall be recorded and a report provided to the Citizens at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the MNBC and the Métis Nation Governing Assembly.
- 5.3 The MNBC's Minister responsible for Natural Resources will be required to report all updates to the MNBC Board of the Directors.

ARTICLE SIX – HARVESTING FOR PROFIT AND COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

6.0 In this Act the harvesting of wildlife and fish for profit or commercial purposes;

- 6.1 Is not authorized, and;
- 6.2 Only permits harvesting by Métis Citizens for food, social, ceremonial and traditional purposes.

ARTICLE SEVEN – MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

7.0 Management agreements;

- 7.1 The MNBC Board of Directors may enter into agreements with Canada or British Columbia pertaining to management, perpetuation or rehabilitation of wildlife or fish populations or the ecosystems of which those populations are a part.
- 7.2 The MNBC Board of Directors may enter into agreements with aboriginal nations, non-government organizations and stakeholder groups that pertain or contribute to natural resource management and conservation of fish and wildlife populations and habitats.
- 7.3 The MNBC Board of Directors may enter into agreements with the owners of lands



respecting the management of the lands for the purposes mentioned in *Article 3.0*, and such agreements may authorize BCMANR to carry out habitat improvement work, protective measures, stocking programs, fencing, erection of signs, harvesting activities and any other management practice.

- 7.4 The MNBC Board of Directors may enter into agreements, for the purpose of consultation, as per *Article 11.0* of this Act.

ARTICLE EIGHT – MNBC HARVESTING CARDS

- 8.0 In this Act:

8.1 MNBC Harvesting Cards

8.1.1 MNBC Harvesting Cards may be issued to Métis Citizens who submit applications and meet requirements for approval. This Act applies only to those persons who have chosen to harvest under the authority of the Act.

8.1.2 A MNBC Citizen cannot harvest a wildlife and fish quota (or bag limit) under multiple licensing authorities (i.e. MNBC Harvesting Card and a Province of British Columbia *Wildlife Act* hunting license).

8.1.3 The holder of a MNBC Harvesting Card constitutes acceptance of all terms and conditions for use of the card as outlined in this Act and any subsequent regulations created under the authority of Article 9.0.

8.1.4 Contravention of terms is an Offence.

8.1.5 No person shall contravene the terms or conditions of the person's MNBC Harvesting Card.

8.2 Transfer of MNBC Harvesting Card, validation or tag;

8.2.1 Except as provided in the regulations, no MNBC Harvesting Card shall be transferred and no person shall buy, sell, exchange or in anyway be a party to the transfer of a MNBC Harvesting Card, validation or tag, or in any way use or attempt to use a MNBC Harvesting Card, validation or tag, issued to any other person.

8.3 MNBC Harvesting Cards apply only to those species, areas and times described by regulations developed under the authority of *Article 9.0*.

8.4 Cancellation of MNBC Harvesting Card in event of error;

8.4.1 BCMANR may cancel any MNBC Harvesting Card where an error has been made from any cause when issuing it, and the holder has no claim for indemnity or compensation with respect to it other than the adjustment or refund of any fee collected.

8.5 MNBC Harvesting Card is to be carried and produced upon demand;



- 8.5.1 No holder of a MNBC Harvesting Card shall hunt, fish, trap or collect natural resources unless at that time they have a valid MNBC Harvesting Card on their person;
- 8.5.2 The holder of a MNBC Harvesting Card shall produce the card to any enforcement officer whenever requested.
- 8.6 MNBC Harvesting Card obtained by misrepresentation;
 - 8.6.1 The holder of a MNBC Harvesting Card obtained by any false or misleading statement made in respect of any information required for the issue of the MNBC Harvesting Card shall be deemed to be the holder of a void MNBC Harvesting Card and the holder will be prosecuted under this Act.
- 8.7 Refusal of MNBC Harvesting Card;
 - 8.7.1 An issuer of MNBC Harvesting Cards may refuse to issue a MNBC Harvesting Card where the refusal is due to failure to verify MNBC Citizenship for the applicant or,
 - 8.7.2 An issuer of MNBC Harvesting Cards may refuse to issue a MNBC Harvesting Card where the refusal is reasonably necessary for the achievement of the purpose and intent of this Act as per *Article 3.0*.
- 8.8 Notice of refusal
 - 8.8.1 Where an issuer of MNBC Harvesting Card refuses to issue a MNBC Harvesting Card, BCMANR shall serve notice of the refusal on the application for the MNBC Harvesting Card.
- 8.9 A person, who has not complied with terms of any BCMANR Captain's Assembly decisions related to offences under the Act, will not be eligible to apply for a MNBC Harvesting Card, unless the offence has been overturned by a successful MNBC Senate appeal.

ARTICLE NINE – REGULATIONS BY BCMANR

- 9.0 BCMANR will make regulations that are consistent with *Article 3.0* and develop regulations based on the principles of existing case law, and whereas;
 - a. An agreement (as per *Article 7.0*) that has been endorsed between the MNBC and a provincial and/or federal government partner, or;
 - b. Legislative or political direction has been provided by the Métis Nation Governing Assembly, MNBC Annual General Assembly or a ratified motion of the MNBC Board of Directors, however;
 - c. If neither *Articles 9.0 a.* nor *9.0 b.* are present, then provincial and federal government legislation and regulation will be sanctioned.



- 9.1 BCMANR will make regulations as follows:
- 9.1.1 Respecting threatened species or endangered species;
 - 9.1.2 Application for MNBC Harvesting Cards and permits as per *Article 8.0*;
 - 9.1.3 Prescribing the conditions of a MNBC Harvesting Card and conditions that the Issuer may attach to a MNBC Harvesting Card when they issue it to a Métis Citizen;
 - 9.1.4 Limiting the number and types of tags and permits that may be held by a person;
 - 9.1.5 Prescribing fees;
 - 9.1.6 Prescribing the maximum number of a species of wildlife, by sex and age, that a person may kill or possess in a period of time and the circumstances in which a person may kill or possess wildlife;
 - 9.1.7 Designating no shooting and/or no harvesting areas;
 - 9.1.8 Providing for cancellation or suspension of, periods of ineligibility for and periods of suspension of MNBC Harvesting Cards for specified offences or combinations of offences, and specifying what a second or subsequent offence is, consistent with *Article 12.0*;
 - 9.1.9 Specifying lakes, streams or areas of British Columbia for the purpose of requiring Métis Citizens to hold a MNBC Harvesting Card issued under the authority of this Act to engage in angling in that lake, stream or area for special designated harvests;
 - 9.1.10 Respecting how decision for appeal may be supplied for the purposes of *Article 13.0*;
 - 9.1.11 Prohibiting or regulating methods and devices for hunting or taking wildlife and respecting safety in those activities;
 - 9.1.12 Providing for the reporting and recording;
 - 9.1.13 Requiring wildlife or a part of wildlife to be permanently or temporarily marked or tagged;
 - 9.1.14 Requiring that a person who kills wildlife, take that wildlife or a part of it to a place and report to a person specified by BCMANR;
- 9.2 Without limiting *Article 9.1*, BCMANR will make regulations as follows:
- 9.2.1 Specifying open seasons or closed seasons, or both, for a sex, age or species of wildlife;



- 9.2.2 Prescribing the hours of the day or night during which the hunting of wildlife is prohibited or allowed;
- 9.2.3 Prescribing restrictions on the manner in which fish caught by angling may be dressed or packed and limits on the amount of fish or fish parts possessed by a person at a place other than at a private residence;
- 9.2.4 Prescribing MNBC Harvesting Cards or permits that must be held to angle for or to catch and retain a designated species of fish or to angle in a designated area of British Columbia, including tidal waters;
- 9.2.5 Prescribing tags that must be attached in the prescribed manner to fish caught by angling;
- 9.2.6 Prescribing an offence under a specified provision of this Act, or a regulation under this Act, as an offence.
- 9.3 BCMANR, despite anything in this Act, may make regulations respecting the issue of permits.
- 9.4 Regulations must assure public safety and public health.
- 9.5 This Act authorizes the creation of a BCMANR Policy and Procedure section pertaining to the process for regulation development.
- 9.6 All regulation must be approved, via motion, by the BCMANR Captain's Assembly.

ARTICLE TEN – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- 10.0 This Act authorizes the development of Environmental Protection Policy.
- 10.1 The Environmental Protection Policy is the responsibility of the MNBC Ministry of Environmental Protection.
- 10.2 BCMANR will be responsible for all Environmental Protection regulations developed under the authority of this Act.
- 10.3 The MNBC Board of Directors has the approval authority for all Environmental Protection Policy.

ARTICLE ELEVEN – CONSULTATION

- 11.0 This Act authorizes the development of an MNBC Consultation Guidelines and supporting procedures.
- 11.1 The development of MNBC's Consultation Guidelines is the joint responsibility of the MNBC Ministries of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. The policy will be revised from time to time to reflect MNBC's position with respect to consultation within context of current Supreme Court of Canada rulings and associated regulatory requirements as they apply to Métis rights and interests;



- 11.2 The Consultation Guidelines will include a definition of traditional knowledge, written by the BCMANR Captain's Assembly, to ensure adherence to purpose of this Act in *Article 3.0*.
 - 11.2.1 Traditional knowledge protocol and procedure in the Consultation Guidelines will be established by the BCMANR Captain's Assembly.
- 11.3 The MNBC Board of Directors has the approval authority for all Consultation Guidelines.
- 11.4 The implementation of the Consultation Guidelines is the joint responsibility of the Senior Directors of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, under the direction and guidance of the respective MNBC Ministers, where relevant.
- 11.5 Consultation Guidelines will address the following principles;
 - 11.5.1 Promote the adherence of government, proponent and regulatory agencies to the implementation of Aboriginal consultation in a manner that respects and addresses the unique culture, heritage by:
 - 11.5.1.1 Increasing awareness of the Métis in British Columbia including the cultural, heritage and land use issues of concern to Métis;
 - 11.5.1.2 Strive to ensure the timely and effective avoidance, mitigation, accommodation and/or compensation of potentially adverse impacts to Métis rights and interests in keeping with current MNBC mandates related to consultation;
 - 11.5.2 The MNBC Ministry of Economic Development and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Environmental Protection will endeavor to keep apprised of and inform the MNBC's Board of Directors of current case law, regulatory requirements, government policies and other matters that may influence Métis rights and interests and have bearing on the MNBC's Consultation Guidelines;
 - 11.5.3 Establish appropriate, efficient practices that will fulfill MNBC consultation principles in accordance with MNBC Board direction for all natural resource matters.
 - 11.5.4 Promote and facilitate the protection of traditional land use locations and other historical resources of significance to Métis within British Columbia;
 - 11.5.5 Guide Parties in fulfilling their consultation duties and objectives in a spirit of reconciliation and transparency and will meet each party's goal of fairness and certainty; and,
 - 11.5.6 Guide MNBC's decision-making processes regarding consultation as it relates to all natural resource matters including resource development and land management practices.
- 11.6 Consultation Guidelines will require the MNBC to;



- 11.6.1 Represent and advocate for consultation of British Columbia Métis Citizens with governments, regulators, proponents and other relevant agencies;
- 11.6.2 Provide direction and support to the Chartered Métis Communities;
- 11.6.3 Work with BCMANR to ensure traditional and contemporary land use information is employed to support consultation where such information is available; or,
 - 11.6.3.1 If absent, advocate for resources to compliment the consultation project with adequate traditional and contemporary land use information.
- 11.6.4 Provide information to government and industry to facilitate consultation activities;
- 11.6.5 Manage and determine the adequacy of consultation activities within the context of MNBC consultation policies, legal precedents and regulatory requirements;
- 11.6.6 Report to the Chartered Métis Communities, government, regulators, proponents and other relevant agencies regarding decisions concerning consultation as related to their respective mandates; and,
- 11.6.7 Consider any other issue or take any other action the MNBC deems necessary to ensure consultation adequately protects the rights and interests of British Columbia Métis Citizens.

ARTICLE TWELVE – COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- 12.0 This Act authorizes the BCMANR Captain's Assembly to function in the following compliance and enforcement capacities;
 - 12.1 To operate in the capacity of the initial judiciary in relation to offences against this Act or any regulations empowered by this Act.
 - 12.2 Powers available to the Captain's Assembly for offences against this Act are;
 - a. Suspension of a MNBC Harvesting Card for a period not to exceed two years, offences greater than two years are considered an apprehension.
 - b. Apprehension of a MNBC Harvesting Card for a period not to exceed five years. If the apprehension is recommended by the Captain's Assembly to be greater than five years; the MNBC Minister of Environmental Protection Resources must sanction the apprehension.
 - c. Community service hours
 - d. Reparations or mitigated measures



- 12.3 Determine the policies and procedures for the compliance and enforcement authorities assigned under this Act.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN – APPEAL MECHANISM

- 13.0 The MNBC Senate has the authority to hear appeals for;
- 13.1 Any decisions established under the authority of this Act, or;
- 13.2 Any offences established by the BCMANR Captain’s Assembly under the authority of *Article 12.0* of this Act.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN – BCMANR NATURAL RESOURCE FUND

- 14.0 BCMANR Natural Resource fund is established to fund projects and activities related to natural resource management, protection, enhancement, education and legal challenges and that a BCMANR Natural Resource fund policy is developed to ensure management of the fund by BCMANR is strategic, effective and transparent.

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

MÉTIS NATION SENATE ACT

AS RATIFIED SEPTEMBER 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





ARTICLE ONE - TITLE

- 1.0 This Act may be cited as "The Métis Nation British Columbia Senate Act"

ARTICLE TWO - INTERPRETATION

- 2.0 In this Act:
- 2.1. **“Act”** means the *Métis Nation British Columbia Senate Act*.
 - 2.2 **“Constitution”** means the Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia (“MNBC”) as amended from time to time.
 - 2.3 **“Legislation”** means legislative documents, laws and/or acts including amendments to existing legislative documents, laws and/or acts and, for the purposes of this Act, will include draft or proposed Legislation.
 - 2.4 **“Métis Nation British Columbia”** means the organization which represents and/or is comprised of the Métis Citizens of British Columbia and which are governed by the provisions of the Constitution.
 - 2.5 **“Métis Nation Governing Assembly”** (MNGA) means the legislative authority of the Métis Nation British Columbia, as set out in the Constitution.
 - 2.6 **“Ordinarily Resident”** means the Region to which the person is registered as a member and the Region of the member's fixed home address to which whenever they are absent they have the intention of returning.
 - 2.7 **“Region”** means Region as determined by the Constitution.
 - 2.8 **“Registrar”** means the individual who fulfils the office of Registrar as defined in the *Citizenship Act*.
 - 2.9 **“Senate”** means the Métis Nation British Columbia Senate.
 - 2.10 **“Senator”** means a member of the Métis Nation British Columbia Senate.

ARTICLE THREE - MANDATE AND POWERS OF THE SENATE

- 3.0 The Senate shall:
- 3.1 Act as the judicial arm of the Métis Nation British Columbia in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution;
 - 3.2 Consist of seven (7) Senators, one Senator per Region; and



- 3.3 Determine and abide by guidelines for protocol, policy and procedure and to provide to the MNBC a written copy of those guidelines (the “Protocol Guidelines”).
- 3.4 A Senator shall not be subject to any civil action, suit of prosecution as a result of any things done or not done in relations to the performance of their duties as Senators.

ARTICLE FOUR - QUALIFICATIONS FOR A SENATOR

- 4.0 A person is eligible for appointment to the Senate if they:
 - 4.1 Are a Citizen of the Métis Nation British Columbia;
 - 4.2 Are appointed by the Regional Governance Council by a motion at a Regional meeting;
 - 4.3 Are ordinarily resident in the Region from which they were appointed;
 - 4.4 Are non-partisan and non-political, including non-affiliation except as members only of Federal, Provincial and Métis organizations;
 - 4.5 Are at least fifty-five (55) years of age; and
 - 4.6 They have not been convicted of a criminal offence carrying a penalty of two (2) years or greater.
 - 4.7 They are registered with the Métis Nation British Columbia Central Registry in accordance with the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act.

ARTICLE FIVE - APPOINTMENT AND RATIFICATION OF SENATORS

- 5.0 Notice of Senate appointments shall be forwarded to the MNBC and the Senate Chairperson, when appointed, by the official charged with recording the minutes of the meeting at which the appointment was made. The submission will include a copy of the minutes of the meeting, indicating the motion and shall be accompanied by a resume and biography of the appointed Senator.
 - 5.1 A call for application for Senators will be issued by the MNBC 120 days prior to the Senators term.
 - 5.2 The application package must contain:
 - a) Biography of the Applicant.
 - b) Proof of age.
 - c) Copy of the MNBC Provincial Métis Citizens card.
 - d) A Criminal Record Check in accordance with the MNBC Constitution and Senate Act.



- e) Nomination in writing by a Métis Citizen that holds a MNBC Provincial Métis Citizens card.
 - f) Application package must be submitted to the MNBC Regional Director 30 days prior to the end of the Senator's term.
- 5.3 The Regional Governance Council shall review the Applicant's submissions and will reject applications that do not contain the items listed in 5.2.
- 5.4 All or any candidates shall not participate in the Regional Governance Council meeting or when Senator deliberations are being carried out.
- 5.5 The Regional Governance Council will deliberate until the appointment of their Regional Senator is reached by simple majority.
- 5.6 The successful Applicant will upon notification of their appointment, immediately resign any and all positions held within the MNBC, MNGA, Community or subsidiary Board, Commission or Committee, Métis Women of British Columbia, or the Métis Youth of British Columbia.

ARTICLE SIX - TERM AND REMOVAL OF OFFICE

- 6.0 In this Act:
 - 6.1 The term of office for a Senator shall be four (4) years;
 - 6.2 Notwithstanding Article 6.1, the term of office of a Senator shall terminate if a Senator is:
 - a) Disqualified for violating any part of this Act; or
 - b) Is unable to fulfill their duties on a permanent basis.
 - 6.3 A Senator shall be removed or suspended from office by the Senate:
 - a) For being convicted of an indictable offence and all appeals are exhausted;
 - b) If they take up residency outside of the Province of British Columbia;
 - c) For actions unbecoming the stature of a Senator while holding office;
 - d) By voluntarily resigning in writing to the Chairperson of the Senate;
 - 6.4 A Senator shall take a leave of absence from the office of the Senate upon being charged with an indictable offence and pending final determination of the allegations forming the basis for the charge;
 - 6.5 A Senator may be suspended by a seventy five percent (75%) majority of the Senate. The suspension may be with or without remuneration at the sole discretion of the Senate and shall be effective immediately upon that Senator being notified of their



suspension;

- 6.6 A Senator may appeal their suspension to the MNGA by written notice to the MNGA within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of his suspension.

ARTICLE SEVEN – GUIDELINES FOR PROTOCOL, CODE OF ETHICS, STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

- 7.0 Within four (4) months of the final ratification of this Act, the Senate shall prepare, compile and deliver to the MNGA a copy of guidelines, in writing, setting out the Protocol, Code of Ethics and Standard of Conduct pursuant to which the Senate shall conduct its affairs and manage and administer the duties and functions of the Senate in accordance with this Act and the Senator's fiduciary duty to the MNGA, the MNBC and Métis Citizens.

ARTICLE EIGHT - COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

- 8.0 Pursuant to this Act the Senate shall establish any such committees as are required by the Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution or Legislation and as required to carry out the following duties:
- a. Mediation;
 - b. Citizenship and Central Registry Appeals;
 - c. Election Appeals;
 - d. Regional and Community Disputes;
 - e. Ceremonial Activities and Exchanges;
 - f. Conducting Opening / Closing Prayers;
 - g. Directing Swearing-In Ceremonies and Oaths;
 - h. Presenting Awards and Gifts of Recognition where applicable;
 - i. Displaying Métis Flags and Sashes; and
 - j. Natural Resources Appeals;
- 8.1 Each committee established pursuant to Article 8.1 shall appoint an individual from among its members to serve as the spokesperson for that committee.

ARTICLE NINE - APPEALS

- 9.0 Members of the Senate conducting appeals shall:
- a) Hear and provide written decisions on all matters and appeals properly before the Senate;
 - b) Have such powers, rights and privileges as may be necessary in regards to attendance, swearing in and examination of witnesses, the production and inspection of documents, the enforcement of its orders and other matters necessary or proper for the due exercise of its jurisdiction.



- c) The Senate shall determine the tribunal or committees required for the jurisdictions supplied under Article 8.0 of this Act.
 - d) Consider and determine issues with a majority of members in attendance; and
 - e) May appoint an individual(s) to inquire into and report on any matter before making a decision on it.
- 9.1 In all matters concerning appeals, be bound by the rules of natural justice;
- 9.2 Where a time frame to submit an appeal is not otherwise legislated, any appeal by a MNBC Citizen must be made within sixty (60) days of the event.
- 9.2.1 The Senate will consider an application for an extension of time to appeal.
- 9.3 All decisions of the Senate must be in writing and sealed, then forwarded to the affected parties within thirty (30) days of its decision.
- 9.4 The decisions of the Senate shall be in writing and forwarded to the Métis Nation British Columbia for its review and such action as necessary by the Métis Nation British Columbia.

ARTICLE TEN - QUORUM AND VOTING

- 10.0 To conduct official Senate business:
- 10.1 A simple majority of the Senators will constitute a quorum for a full Senate sitting and/or a simple majority of the composition of a Senate committee and/or tribunal.
- 10.2 Decisions made by a quorum of the Senate shall be deemed to be a decision of the Senate.

ARTICLE ELEVEN - FINANCES

- 11.0 The Financial requirements for the institution and operation Senate shall be satisfied as follows:
- 11.1 Where fiscal resources are available, the MNBC, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the MNBC Financial Policies and Procedures, shall provide financial resources to the Senate as required for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Act.
- 11.2 Such resources shall be within the means available to the MNBC for such purposes.
- 11.3 The Chairperson of the Senate shall make formal written request to the MNBC for all expenditures of the Senate.
- 11.4 The MNBC shall actively pursue fiscal resources for the functions of the Senate.



11.5 The MNBC will be responsible for travel expenses and honorariums for the Senate while conducting official Senate business, pursuant to this Act.

11.6 In the absence of timely Senate resources, the Senate will be provided full consideration for required resources on a case-by-case basis through mutual consultation between the Senate and MNBC.

ARTICLE TWELVE - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

12.0 In this Act:

12.1 The Senate shall keep written minutes of all meetings and shall issue such reports to those persons or individuals as may be required.

12.2 All decisions of the Senate shall be recorded and a report and posted on the MNBC website for general Citizenship to view.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN – CLERK OF THE SENATE

13.0 The Clerk of the Senate shall:

13.1 Operate independent of MNBC;

13.2 Operate under the authority and direction of the MNBC Senate;

13.3 Shall be remunerated by the MNBC;

13.4 Shall hold no other seat as MNGA/AGM Clerk or administrator/staff personnel within MNBC.

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

MÉTIS NATION VETERANS ACT

AS RATIFIED SEPTEMBER 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





ARTICLE ONE

- 1.1 This act may be cited as the Veterans Act (the “Act”).

ARTICLE TWO – PURPOSE OF THE ACT

- 2.1 The purpose of this Act is to define the role and position of the Métis Veterans of British Columbia (the “MVBC”) within the MNBC.

ARTICLE THREE – MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Métis who have received a MNBC Citizenship Card and who meet the Department of Veterans Affairs Canada definition for a Veteran, being a current member or, a former member of, the Canadian Armed Forces (Regular Forces or Reserve Forces), that was released with an honourable discharge and, who successfully underwent basic training is considered to be a Métis Veteran. A Métis Veteran shall also include those still serving or retired RCMP members. The “Veterans” shall, upon submission of proof of service and Métis Citizenship and upon application to the MVBC being approved, be the members of the MVBC (hereinafter “Members”).
- 3.2 The spouses and children of MVBC Members who wish to join MVBC may apply for associate membership of MVBC and may be accepted as an associate member (the “Associate Member” or “Associate Members” as the case may be) of MVBC. The MVBC Committee will assess and accept or deny applications for Associate Membership.
- 3.3 The MVBC Committee may, at their sole discretion, revoke a person’s associate membership.
- 3.4 Associate Members shall not be permitted to participate or vote at a meeting of the MVBC and shall not be entitled to appointment to the MVBC Committee.
- 3.5 A Member or Associate Member may resign their membership in MVBC, through a written request submitted to the MVBC Committee.

ARTICLE FOUR – METIS VETERANS BC COMMITTEE

- 4.1 Métis Veterans BC Committee (the “MVBC Committee”) shall be constituted of a Métis Veteran Chairperson, seven Métis Veteran Representatives (the “Regional Representatives”), a Woman Veteran Representative, and a Service Officer, all being MVBC members.
- 4.2 The MVBC Membership shall elect from among themselves the Chairperson, Women’s Representative, and Service Officer. The MVBC Regional Representatives shall be appointed in consultation with the appropriate MNBC Regional Governance Council.



- 4.3 The term of office for all MVBC Committee members shall be no more than four (4) years. Elections and appointments shall be held at a MVBC General Meeting, in the year on which the term for those MVBC Committee members shall expire.
- 4.4 The MNBC Minister of Veterans will notify the relevant Regional Director no less than ninety (90) days before their MVBC Regional Representative term will expire, and an appointment must be made by the Regional Governance Council, if a suitable candidate can be found.
- 4.5 No Member may serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms as Chairperson, Women's Representative, or Service Officer, without the approval of the MNBC Minister of Veterans.
- 4.6 At least one member of the MVBC Committee shall be a serving or retired member of the RCMP, if a suitable candidate can be found.
- 4.7 A Treasurer and Membership Clerk will be appointed by the MVBC Committee from the MVBC Committee Regional Representatives, who, together with the Chairperson, Women's Representative, and Service Officer, shall collectively act and be known as the "Executive Committee".
- 4.8 The MVBC Committee shall be responsible for the following duties and functions on behalf of the Métis Veterans British Columbia:
- a.) Maintenance of policy and procedures relating to the conduct and mandate of the Métis Veterans and Associate Members;
 - b.) Maintenance of a list of all Métis Veterans and Associate Members in British Columbia as defined by article three (3);
 - c.) Prepare an annual report for presentation at the MNBC Annual General Meeting, and other reports as requested by the MNBC Minister of Veterans;
 - d.) Serve as *Gabriel Dumont Scouts* as may be requested by MNBC from time to time;
 - e.) Co-ordinate and organize flag processions and flag placement as requested or appropriate from time to time; and other duties as required;
 - f.) Advocate to enhance the status of Métis Veterans;
 - g.) Provide service and support to Métis Veterans in British Columbia;
 - h.) Represent themselves as Métis veterans at municipal, provincial, federal, commemorative, or other events.
- 4.9 Subject to available funding, the MVBC Committee shall meet at least twice per year at a location chosen by the MVBC Committee and may be held in conjunction with the MNBC Annual General Meeting or a MNBC Métis Nation Governing Assembly. The MVBC General Meeting will generally be held in conjunction with the MNBC Annual General Meeting.
- 4.10 Meetings of the MVBC Committee shall be called by the Chairperson. In the event that the Chairperson is unwilling or unable to call a meeting, three MVBC Committee members may call a meeting.



- 4.11 No less than seven (7) days' notice of a MVBC Committee meeting will be provided to all MVBC Committee members.
- 4.12 An MVBC Member, while conducting their duties of the MVBC, shall not be subject to any civil action, lawsuit, or prosecution, as a result of anything done or not done in relation to their duties.

ARTICLE FIVE – MNBC MINISTER OF VETERANS

- 5.1 The MNBC Minister of Veterans shall be an MNBC Board Member.
- 5.2 The MNBC Minister of Veterans shall provide Provincial and Federal representation on behalf of the MVBC and will be accountable to the MVBC Committee. In the event the Minister of Veterans is unable to attend, the Minister may request that an alternate MNBC Board Member and the Chairperson of the MVBC attend in their place.
- 5.3 For the purpose of official business, the voice of the MVBC shall be brought to the MNBC, Métis National Council, Federal and Provincial Governments, organizations, and associations through the Minister in consultation with the MVBC Committee.

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

MÉTIS NATION WOMEN'S ACT

AS RATIFIED SEPTEMBER 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





PREAMBLE

0.0 Mission Statement of the Métis Women of British Columbia:

*“We the Métis women of B.C. have an agenda of an open heart and we respect and trust in the process.
We are encouraging appropriate relationships, principles and procedures.”*

ARTICLE ONE – TITLE

1.0 This act may be cited as the *MNBC Women’s Act* (the “Act”).

ARTICLE TWO – PURPOSE OF THE ACT

2.0 The purpose of this Act is to entrench the Métis Women of British Columbia (the “MWBC”) in the MNBC governance structure to ensure that Métis Women are equally represented and engaged in all levels of governance.

ARTICLE THREE - DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 In this Act:
- 3.2 **“MWBC Provincial Governance Council”** means the seven elected Métis Women’s representatives, one from each Region and the Métis Women’s Chairperson also known as the Minister Responsible for Métis Women.
- 3.3 **“Legislation”** means legislative documents, laws and/or acts including amendments to existing legislative documents, laws and/or acts.
- 3.4 **“MWBC”** means the Métis Women of British Columbia.
- 3.5 **“Minister Responsible for Métis Women”** means the person elected as MNBC Provincial Métis Women’s Chairperson in accordance with the provisions of the *MNBC Electoral Act*, who shall serve as the Minister Responsible for Métis Women on the MNBC Board of Directors.
- 3.6 **“The Provincial Métis Women’s Chairperson”** the MNBC Métis Women’s representative elected in a Province wide election in accordance with the provisions of the *MNBC Electoral Act*.
- 3.7 **“Regional Métis Women’s Representative”** means the MNBC Métis Women’s Representative elected to represent the Métis Women of a Region in accordance with the provisions of the *MNBC Electoral Act*.
- 3.8 **“Métis Women”** means those Métis Women residing in British Columbia, 18 years of age and older.
- 3.9 **“Métis Nation Governing Assembly”** (MNGA) means the legislative body of the MNBC, as set out in the *Constitution*.



3.10 “**MNBC Assembly**” means MNBC Annual General Meeting (AGM).

ARTICLE FOUR – GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 MWBC shall:
- 4.2 The MWBC Provincial Governance Council acknowledges and accepts the *MNBC Constitution* as the law governing the MWBC and agrees to comply with the provisions of the *MNBC Constitution* and MNBC Legislation.
- 4.3 The objective of MWBC is to listen to Métis Women, to voice Métis Women’s perspectives, and to acknowledge the past and present contributions of Métis Women for the benefit of Métis People and the Métis Nation.
- 4.4 The voice of the Métis Women in British Columbia shall be brought to the MNBC, Métis National Council, Women of the Métis Nation Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, Federal and Provincial Governments, organizations and associations through the MWBC Committee.

ARTICLE FIVE – MWBC GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- 5.1 MWBC shall:
- 5.2 The MWBC Provincial Governance Council shall attend every MNGA Assembly and MNBC Assembly.
- 5.3 The Provincial Women’s Chairperson is a voting director on the MNBC Board of Directors.
- 5.4 The Provincial Women’s Chairperson shall provide Provincial and Federal representation and be accountable to the Provincial Governance Council and the MNBC Board of Directors.
 - a) Upon election, by vote or acclamation, as a Regional Women’s Representative, a Citizen who holds the position of President or Vice-President on a Chartered Community Board must immediately resign from that position.
 - i. If the position of Regional Women’s Representative is vacant between elections, a President or Vice-President of a Chartered Community may be appointed to the position on an interim basis, subject to the procedures set out in the *Constitution* and the *MNGA Act*
- 5.5 The seven Regional Women’s Representatives each shall hold voting seats on their respective Regional Governance Councils.
- 5.6 All Métis Women of British Columbia (MWBC) Provincial Governance Council members shall not be subject to any civil action, suit or prosecution as a result of anything done or not done in relation to the performance of their duties as Métis Women of British Columbia representatives.



- 5.7 The MWBC Provincial Governance Council shall elect, from among its members, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary-Treasurer.
- 5.8 The MWBC Provincial Governance Council shall hold no less than four meetings, including telephone or in person meetings, each year called by the Minister Responsible for Women or, in the event the Minister Responsible for Women is unwilling or unable to call a meeting shall be called by the Vice-Chair.
- 5.9 MWBC shall prepare and maintain written minutes of all meetings and conference calls (the “MWBC Minutes”).
- 5.10 MWBC Minutes shall be archived in the head office of the Métis Nation British Columbia.
- 5.11 The MWBC Provincial Governance Council shall, on behalf of the MWBC take such action or hold such functions as may be deemed appropriate to encourage and support the Spiritual, Physical, Mental and Emotional well being Métis Women or for funding purposes.

ARTICLE SIX – ELECTORAL PROCESSES

- 6.1 MWBC electoral processes are:
- 6.2 Métis Women seeking elected office must meet all eligibility requirements as set out in the *MNBC Constitution* and the *MNBC Electoral Act*.
- 6.3 The MWBC Provincial Governance Council shall be elected for a 4-year term in conjunction with the *MNBC Electoral Act*.

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

MÉTIS NATION YOUTH ACT

AS RATIFIED SEPTEMBER 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





ARTICLE ONE - TITLE

- 1.0 This act may be cited as the Youth Act (the “Act”).

ARTICLE TWO – PURPOSE OF THE ACT

- 2.0 The purpose of this Act is to entrench the Métis Youth of British Columbia (the “MYBC”) in the MNBC governance structure to ensure that Métis Youth are equally represented and engaged in all levels of governance.

ARTICLE THREE - DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 In this Act:
- 3.2 “**MYBC Committee**” means the seven elected youth representatives, one from each Region and the Chairperson also known as the Minister Responsible for Youth.
- 3.3 “**Legislation**” means legislative documents, laws and/or acts including amendments to existing legislative documents, laws and/or acts.
- 3.4 “**MYBC**” means the Métis Youth of British Columbia.
- 3.5 “**Minister Responsible for Youth**” means the person elected as MNBC Provincial Youth Chairperson in accordance with the provisions of the *MNBC Electoral Act*, and appointed as the Minister Responsible for Youth by the MNBC President. All Métis Youth BC (MYBC) committee members shall not be subject to any civil action, suit or prosecution as a result of anything done or not done in relation to the performance of their duties as Métis Youth BC representatives.
- 3.6 “**The Provincial Youth Chairperson**” the MNBC Youth representative elected in a Province wide election in accordance with the provisions of the *MNBC Electoral Act*.
- 3.7 “**Regional Youth Representative**” means the MNBC Youth Representative elected to represent the Métis Youth of a Region in accordance with the provisions of the *MNBC Electoral Act*.
- 3.8 “**Métis Youth**” means those Métis Citizens between 15 to and including 30 years of age.
- 3.9 “**Ministry of Youth Lead**” shall mean an employee of Métis Nation BC who is hired or appointed as the Ministry of Youth Lead to support and further the Métis Youth of British Columbia.

ARTICLE FOUR – GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 MYBC shall:
- 4.2 The MYBC Committee acknowledges and accepts the *MNBC Constitution* as the supreme law governing the MYBC and agrees to comply with the provisions of the



Constitution and MNBC Legislation.

- 4.3 The objective of MYBC is to advance and enhance valuable Métis Youth perspectives, and to acknowledge Métis Youth for the benefit of the Métis Nation.
- 4.4 The voice of the Métis Youth in British Columbia shall be brought to the MNBC, Métis National Council, Federal and Provincial Governments, organizations and associations through the MYBC Committee.
- 4.5 The Ministry of Youth Lead shall assist MYBC in all administrative functions in advancing all MYBC youth initiatives throughout the Province.
- 4.6 The Ministry of Youth Lead shall actively pursue funding to support and maintain the activities of the MYBC.

ARTICLE FIVE – MYBC GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- 5.1 MYBC shall:
- 5.2 The MYBC Committee shall, subject to available funding, attend every MNGA and MNBC.
- 5.3 The Provincial Youth Chairperson is a voting director on the MNBC Board of Directors.
- 5.4 The Provincial Youth Chairperson shall provide Provincial and Federal representation and be accountable to the MYBC Committee and the MNBC Board of Directors
- 5.5 The seven Regional Youth Representatives each shall hold voting seats on their respective Regional Governance Councils and on the MYBC Committee.
 - a) Upon election, by vote or acclamation, as a Regional Youth Representative, a Citizen who holds the position of President or Vice-President on a Chartered Community Board must immediately resign from that position.
 - i. If the position of Regional Youth Representative is vacant between elections, a President or Vice-President of a Chartered Community may be appointed to the position on an interim basis, subject to procedures set out in the *Constitution* and the *MNGA Act*.
- 5.6 The regional youth representatives should be accountable to the Métis Youth BC (MYBC) Committee, their Regional Governance Councils and Métis citizens of BC.
- 5.7 The MYBC Committee shall elect, from among its members, a Vice-Chair, and may elect a Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be referred to as the “Executive”.
- 5.8 The MYBC Committee shall, subject to available funding, hold no less than four meetings, including telephone, video, or in person meetings, each year called by the Minister Responsible for Youth or, in the event the Minister Responsible for Youth is unwilling or unable to call a meeting shall be called by the Co-Chair.



- 5.9 MYBC shall prepare and maintain written minutes of all meetings and conference calls (the “MYBC Minutes”).
- 5.10 MYBC Minutes shall be archived in the head office of the Métis Nation British Columbia.
- 5.11 The MYBC Committee shall, on behalf of the MYBC take such action or hold such functions as may be deemed appropriate to enhance the status of Métis Youth or for funding purposes.

ARTICLE SIX – ELECTORAL PROCESSES

- 6.0 MYBC electoral processes shall:
 - 6.1 Métis Youth seeking elected office must meet all eligibility requirements as set out in the *Constitution* and the *MNBC Electoral Act*.
 - 6.2 The MYBC Committee, including the Provincial Métis Youth Chairperson, shall be elected for a four (4) year term in conjunction with the *MNBC Electoral Act* and *MNBC Guidelines*.¹
 - 6.3 In the event a vacancy in the MYBC Committee shall arise due to the resignation, removal, suspension or otherwise of a MYBC Committee Member, the MYBC Committee shall hold a by-election in accordance with the *MNBC Electoral Act*.

¹ Amended September 2021 Annual General Meeting, not in force until 2024 MNBC Provincial Election.