

DRAFT MINUTES

Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) 2025 Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA), held March 1-2, 2025, by videoconference.

OFFICIAL DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:

Board of Directors

Walter Mineault, President
Melanie Allard, Vice President
Carmen Carriere, Chair, Métis Women of BC
Danielle Bergevin, Chair, Métis Youth of BC
Louis De Jaeger, Chair, Métis 2SLGBTQQA+ of BC
Patrick Harriott, Director, Region 1 (Vancouver Island and Powell River)
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)

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
Zevier Brewer, Métis Nation Powell River
June Graham, Alberni Clayoquot Métis Association
Richard Lewis, Cowichan Valley Métis Association
Tyler Massee, North Island Métis Association

Region 2 – Lower Mainland

Rob Anderson, Vancouver Sea to Sky Métis Association
Anthony Krilow, Surrey Delta Métis Association
Lisa Shepherd, Golden Ears Métis Society
Greg Stanwood, North Fraser Métis Association
Pixie Wells, Fraser Valley Métis Society
Callum Robinson, Waceya Métis Society

Region 3 – Thompson Okanagan

Dylan Adam, Vermillion Forks Métis Association
David Allard, Salmon Arm Métis Association
Cheryl Dodman, Kelowna Métis Association
Ross Everatt, South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association

Betty Ann McDonnell, Nicola Valley and District Métis Society
Anya McVean, Two Rivers Métis Society (Saturday only)

Region 4 – Kootenays

Nicole Courson, West Kootenay Métis Society
Jeff Crozier, Rocky Mountain Métis Association
Pheb Goulet, Columbia Valley Métis Association
Monica Parkinson, Métis Nation Columbia River
Myrtle Servatius, Kootenay South Métis Society

Region 5 – North Central

Sylvia Desrocher, Prince George Métis Community Association
Marlene Swears, The Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association

Region 6 – Northwest

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

Region 7 – Northeast

Alana Copeland, Fort St. John Métis Society
Valerie Paice, River of the Peace Métis Society

ALSO PRESENT:

Nicole Ludwig, MNGA Clerk
Dave Peltier, MNGA Deputy Speaker
Collette Trudeau, Chief Executive Officer, MNBC

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Diane Parsons, Recording Secretary

DAY ONE – March 1, 2025

OPENING PRAYER

Minister Debra Fisher provided an Opening Prayer.

OPENING REMARKS

Walter Mineault, MNBC President, acknowledged recent and upcoming events and commented on:

- Strategizing to minimize impacts of U.S. tariffs, a possible federal election, and an anticipated decrease in funding from provincial and federal governments
- Strengthening relationships with other Métis and First Nation groups and governments, the Province of British Columbia, and the federal government
- Continuing research and preparation of a legal argument regarding the rights assertions of Métis citizens in British Columbia; and a call for additional support and advocacy from Métis communities.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

Nicole Ludwig, Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) Clerk, conducted a roll call and confirmed that a quorum was present.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE 2025 MNGA

AGENDA VARIED

The order of the agenda varied during the MNGA. Items are presented in these minutes in the order they were considered and are numbered in the order reflected in the approved agenda.

1. NOMINATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF MNGA SPEAKER

The MNGA Clerk called for nominations for the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the 2025 MNGA, which prompted the nomination of Dave Peltier for Speaker, who consented to the nomination.

The MNGA Clerk called for further nominations and after the third call, with there being no further nominations, declared the nominations closed. The MNGA Clerk confirmed that there were no objections to the nomination and declared that Dave Peltier was selected as Speaker for the 2025 MNGA.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The March 1-2, 2025, MNGA was called to order on March 1, 2025, at approximately 9:25 a.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST).

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the 2025 MNGA Draft Agenda

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): Draft Agenda for the March 1-2, 2025, MNGA

It was MOVED (Louis De Jaeger) and SECONDED

That the Agenda for the Métis Nation British Columbia 2025 Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled March 1-2, 2025, be adopted with the following amendments:

- Include consideration of "Motion 4: Interim Appointment for Region 4 Youth Representative"; and
- Consider Resolution #6, "Enhance Transparency and Accountability in MNBC Reporting and Financial Management", prior to Resolution #5, "Funding for Chartered Communities".

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-01)

3.2 Adoption of the December 2024 MNGA Draft Minutes

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

It was MOVED (Jeff Crozier) and SECONDED (Melanie Allard)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2024 Métis Nation Governing Assembly held November 30 – December 1, 2024, be adopted as presented.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-02)

4. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): "MNGA Reports 2025" Booklet

The Speaker highlighted that the Secretary and Treasurer Reports were not included for presentation and would be brought forward at the June 2025 MNGA.

During discussion, comments were offered on challenges faced by the Mid Island Métis Nation including disagreements around citizenship issues and limited capacity to support members requesting assistance. President Bremner welcomed guidance and support from other communities.

It was MOVED (Cheryl Dodman) and SECONDED (Tyler Massee)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia 2025 Métis Nation Governing Assembly, accepts the following reports for information:

- President's Report
- Vice-President's Report
- Regional Director Reports
- Métis Women of British Columbia Chairperson Report
- Métis Youth of British Columbia Chairperson Report
- 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council Report
- Senate Report
- Ministry Reports
- Community Reports
- Expenditure Report.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-03)

5. MOTION 1: Interim Appointments for Region 5 Women's and Youth Representatives

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): "Motion 1: Interim Appointment for Region 5 Women's and Youth Representative" submitted by Region 5 Director, in consultation with the Region 5 Regional Governance Council and dated January 17, 2025

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed motion. A majority of the eligible voting delegates was required to vote in favour, for the motion to be duly ratified.

It was MOVED (Marlene Swears) and SECONDED (Sylvia Desrocher)

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 *Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act* and Article 47.4 of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia*, Regional Governance Councils (RGC) may recommend candidates to the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) to fill the vacancies of regional representatives; and
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 the Region 5 RGC's recommendation; and
- B. The MNGA appoints Dawna Short as the Region 5 Women's Representative, as per the Region 5 RGC's recommendation.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-04)

6. MOTION 2: Interim Appointment for Region 1 Youth Representatives

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): "Motion 1: Interim Appointment for Region 1 Youth Representatives" submitted by Region 1 Director, in consultation with the Region 1 Regional Governance Council and dated January 22, 2025

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed motion. A majority of the eligible voting delegates was required to vote in favour, for the motion to be duly ratified.

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Caitlin Bird)

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 *Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act* and Article 47.4 of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia*, Regional Governance Councils (RGC) may recommend candidates to the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) to fill the vacancies of regional representatives; and
- 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 RGC's recommendation.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-05)

7. MOTION 3: Electoral Act Committee Membership

Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): "Motion 3: Electoral Act Committee Membership" submitted by 2SLGBTQQA+ Chairperson in consultation with the Electoral Act Committee and dated January 20, 2025

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed motion. A majority of the eligible voting delegates was required to vote in favour, for the motion to be duly ratified.

It was MOVED (Cheryl Dodman) and SECONDED (Caitlin Bird)

WHEREAS:

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA changed the membership of the Electoral Act Committee by adding “One MNBC Citizen member designated by the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Provincial Governance Council”; and
- B. Subject to approval of A, above, the words “the 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.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-06)

8. MOTION 4: Interim Appointment for Region 4 Youth Representative

Related information (displayed at the Meeting): “Motion 4: Interim Appointment for Region 4 Youth Representatives” submitted by Region 4 Director, in consultation with the Region 4 Regional Governance Council and dated February 19, 2025

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed motion. A majority of the eligible voting delegates was required to vote in favour, for the motion to be duly ratified.

It was MOVED (Debra Fisher) and SECONDED (Jeff Crozier)

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 4 Youth Representative position;
2. The Region 4 Community Leaders engaged in community consultation and recruitment to fill the Youth Representative position;

3. In accordance with Article 13.2 of the *Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act* and Article 47.4 of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia*, Regional Governance Councils (RGCs) may recommend candidates to the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) to fill the vacancies of regional representatives; and
4. On February 18, 2025, the Region 4 RGC met and approved a recommendation for the Regional Youth position;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA appoints Charly Defouw as the Region 4 Youth Representative, as per the Region 4 RGC's recommendation.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-07)

9. RESOLUTION 1: By-election Timing and Filling Vacancies on MWBC, MYBC, and the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Councils

Related information (displayed and provided with the Agenda): "Resolution 1: By-election Timing and Filling Vacancies on Métis Women of British Columbia (MWBC), Métis Youth of British Columbia (MYBC), and the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Councils" submitted by the MNBC Board of Directors and dated December 9, 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:

- Requesting that the MNGA Governance Committee assess the feasibility of allowing extended nomination periods as required, to provide the opportunity to fill positions for which no nominations were received
- The current priority of the MNGA Governance Committee, being the review of Chartered Community Agreements.

In response to questions raised, it was noted that:

- According to Section 47.4 of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia*, "mid-term" vacancies that arise on the MWBC, MYBC and 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Councils could be filled by appointment and ratified by the MNGA.

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Tyler Masee) and SECONDED (Patrick Harriott)

WHEREAS:

1. If vacant seats on the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Board, Métis Women of British Columbia (MWBC), Métis Youth of British Columbia (MYBC), or the 2SLGBTQIA+ Provincial Governance Council (PGC) remain after an election, the *Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia* (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 *Métis Nation Electoral Act* (the "*Electoral Act*"), including convening the

Métis Nation Governing Assembly (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+ PGC have all positions filled; and
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 to the 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+ Provincial Governance Council, 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 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 Métis Provincial Council British Columbia Bylaws be amended by striking the words “one hundred and twenty (120)” and inserting the words “one hundred and eighty (180)” in their place.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Caitlin Bird) and SECONDED (Louis De Jaeger)

That the Main Resolution be amended by appending the following to the “Be it Resolved” Clauses A, E, and F: “(For the purpose of calculating this 180-day period, the days from December 24 to January 2 inclusive are not counted.)”

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-08)

Question on the Main Resolution as Amended

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

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-09)

Sections A, E and F of the “BE IT RESOLVED” section of Resolution 1 as amended, now read:

- 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. (For the purpose of calculating this 180-day period, the days from December 24 to January 2 inclusive are not counted.);
- 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*. (For the purpose of calculating this 180-day period, the days from December 24 to January 2 inclusive are not counted.);
- (a) If a vacancy remains in any Regional Representative position for MWBC, MYBC, or the 2SLGBTQQA+ 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 Métis Provincial Council British Columbia Bylaws be amended by striking “one hundred and twenty (120)” and insert “one hundred and eighty (180)” in its place. (For the purpose of calculating this 180-day period, the days from December 24 to January 2 inclusive are not counted.)”.

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 10:30 a.m. PST and reconvened at 10:45 a.m. PST.

ROLL CALL - POSTPONED

Roll call was postponed until after the “Presentation: 2024 Election and 2025 By-Election Review”.

10. PRESENTATION: 2024 Election and 2025 By-Election Review

Related information (displayed at the Meeting): Presentation titled, “2024 General Election and 2025 By-Election Results Review”

Nicole Ludwig, MNGA Clerk, reviewed the presentation on voter turnout and data from the MNBC’s 2024 General Election and 2025 By-Election, and offered comments on:

- Challenges such as the postal worker strike and winter holidays impacted the By-Election
- A low voter turnout in both the General Election and By-Election, particularly in more remote Regions and amongst voters in the 18-24 and 25-34 age brackets
- A preference amongst voters for electronic voting
- Compiling feedback from the 2025 By-Election for submission to the Electoral Act Committee.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Challenges in maintaining voter anonymity in 2SLGBTQQIA+ elections when using ballot boxes
- Engaging with the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community to gather feedback from the 2025 By-Election
- Implementing a “ballot request” system for 2SLGBTQQIA+ elections
- The importance of consistent election rules from start to finish
- Providing Region-specific data to Community Presidents to help address low voter turnout
- Offering technical support for electronic voting and ensuring ballot boxes are placed in accessible locations.

In response to questions raised, it was noted that:

- Ten community ballot boxes were distributed in the 2024 Election, with broad representation across the regions, and a total of 65 ballots cast across those boxes
- MNBC cannot request Canada Post to expedite mail-in ballots, unlike in provincial or federal elections where mail-in ballots are prioritized
- Clarifying the requirements for a community to have a ballot box.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

11. RESOLUTION 2: Citizenship Act Amendments

Related information (displayed and provided with the Agenda): “Resolution 2: Citizenship Act Amendments” submitted by the Métis Board of Directors and dated December 9, 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.

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (David Allard)

WHEREAS:

1. Some of the language in the *Métis Nation Citizenship Act* (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 Métis Citizenship in British Columbia and supports people who self-identify as Métis 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 Métis 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 Central Registry | Citizen Registry |
| Provincial MNBC Card Provincial Citizenship Card | MNBC 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.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-10)

Lunch Break

The Assembly recessed at 11:50 a.m. PST and reconvened at 1:00 p.m. PST.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

12. RESOLUTION 3: *Citizenship Act* Amendments: Adoption Clause

Related information (displayed and provided with the Agenda): "Resolution 3: Citizenship Act Amendments: Adoption Clause" submitted by the Métis Board of Directors and dated December 9, 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:

- Providing children adopted to Métis parents, the same rights as biological children of Métis parents
- Ensuring that MNBC programs and services are exclusively available to Métis, and that leadership roles are reserved for Métis individuals
- Offering pathways for "membership" that do not compromise the MNBC Citizenship Registry
- Confirmation that the MNBC Citizenship Registry did not currently have any pending citizenship applications on behalf of an adopted non-Métis child
- Convening a Townhall in the coming months to facilitate a more fulsome discussion on granting MNBC citizenship to adopted non-Métis children.

Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Susie Hooper) and SECONDED (Jeff Crozier)

WHEREAS:

1. Métis Nation British Columbia (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 *Métis Nation Citizenship Act* (the "*Citizenship Act*") permits individuals adopted by Métis Citizens to apply for – and receive – Métis Citizenship, regardless of whether they meet the "National Definition" requirement "is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry" or not; and
3. People who are not adopted and apply for MNBC Citizenship are required to demonstrate that they are "of historic Métis 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*.

Amendment to the Main Resolution

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Louis De Jaeger)

That the “Be It Resolved” clause of the Main Resolution be replaced with:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

A. Article 12 of the *Citizenship Act* be struck and replaced with:

- 12.1 Children adopted by an MNBC Citizen by the age of twelve (12) shall have access to MNBC programs and services until the age of eighteen (18)”.

DEFEATED

(12 delegates voted in favour, 26 opposed and 3 abstained)

Postponement

It was MOVED (Lisa Shepherd) and SECONDED (Anya McVean)

That the Métis Nation of British Columbia 2025 Métis Nation General Assembly (MNGA) postpone consideration of Resolution 3 until the next meeting of the MNGA.

ADOPTED (MNGA2501-11)

(29 delegates voted in favour, 7 opposed and 5 abstained)

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 3:13 p.m. PST and reconvened at 3:25 p.m. PST.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

13. RESOLUTION 4: Ensuring Representation for 2SLGBTQIA+ Citizens at the MNGA and Regional Governance Councils

Related information (displayed and provided with the Agenda): “Resolution 4: Ensuring Representation for 2SLGBTQIA+ Citizens at the MNGA and Regional Governance Councils” submitted by South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Society and dated January 17, 2025.

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:

- Further consultation with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, prior to voting on the resolution
- Aligning the 2SLGBTQIA+ Act with the *Métis Nation Women’s Act* and *Métis Nation Youth Act*
- Ratification required at MNBC’s Fall AGM to allow for discussion in the coming months.

Main Resolution

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

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 of British Columbia and the Métis Youth of British Columbia was approved at the 2024 MNBC Annual General Meeting (AGM), and approval of this resolution will align the *Métis Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ Act* (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 *Métis Nation 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*."

Postponement

It was MOVED (Lisa Shepherd) and SECONDED (Any McVean)

That the Métis Nation of British Columbia General Assembly (MNGA) postpone consideration of Resolution 3 until the next meeting of the MNGA.

DEFEATED

(17 delegates voted in favour, 25 opposed and 0 abstained)

Agenda Varied

Delegates confirmed by electronic poll, to extend the adjournment time to 4:20 p.m.

Question on the Main Resolution

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

ADOPTED (MNGA2501-12)

(29 delegates voted in favour, 7 opposed and 5 abstained)

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The March 1-2, 2025 MNBC MNGA adjourned on March 1, 2025, at approximately 4:15 p.m. PST.

DAY TWO – March 2, 2025

ASSEMBLY RECONVENED – CALL TO ORDER

The March 1-2, 2025 MNBC MNGA reconvened on March 2, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. PST.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

14. RESOLUTION 6: Enhance Transparency and Accountability in MNBC Reporting and Financial Management

Related information (displayed and provided with the Agenda): "Resolution 6: Enhance Transparency and Accountability in MNBC Reporting and Financial Management" submitted by the Waceya Métis Society; Salmon Arm Métis Association; and South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association and dated January 30, 2025

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. A majority of the eligible voting delegates was required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Shifting toward a more distributed and decentralized governance model beyond the traditional non-profit structure
- Strengthening citizens' trust in MNBC through increased transparency
- Providing citizens with detailed spending information upon request
- MNBC's current practice to provide greater transparency than auditors require
- MNBC's lack of discretionary funding, as governance funding had been specifically allocated as administrative funds within funding agreements
- Indicating a comparison of actual spending versus budget allocation in an annual report
- Balancing citizen oversight with the need to avoid excessive scrutiny of MNBC spending
- Clearly communicating the sources of all MNBC funding
- Ensuring that financial statements and annual reports were easy for citizens to understand, while providing transparency into MNBC's decision-making processes
- Presenting financial reports to the MNGA separately and ahead of an MNGA or AGM to gather feedback on the most effective way to present financial information clearly.

It was MOVED (David Allard) and SECONDED (Callum Robinson)

WHEREAS:

1. There is little to no transparency between the 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; and
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 Métis Nation Governing Assembly 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; and
 - 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. Subject to approval of **A** above, the Board directs 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; and
- C. Subject to approval of **A** and **B** above, the 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.

Resolution to Postpone

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

That the Métis Nation British Columbia 2025 Métis Nation Governing Assembly postpone consideration of Resolution 6, until a Regional Consultation and Townhall have been held to review and discuss its contents.

Amendment to the Resolution to Postpone

It was MOVED (Callum Robinson) and SECONDED (Louis De Jaeger)

That the Resolution to Postpone be amended by including the words, “prior to the MNBC 2025 Annual General Meeting”.

ADOPTED (MNGA2501-13)

(31 delegates voted in favour, 5 opposed, and 1 delegate abstained)

Question on the Resolution to Postpone as Amended

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

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-14)

The Resolution to Postpone, as amended, now reads:

“That the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) 2025 Métis Nation Governing Assembly postpone consideration of Resolution 6, until a Regional Consultation and Townhall have been held, prior to the MNBC 2025 Annual General Meeting, to review and discuss its contents.”

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 10:22 a.m. PST and reconvened at 10:40 a.m. PST.

ROLL CALL - QUORUM CONFIRMED

The MNGA Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

15. RESOLUTION 5: Funding for Chartered Communities

Related information (displayed and provided with the Agenda): “Resolution 5: Funding for Chartered Communities” submitted by the South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association, Salmon Arm Métis Association, and Waceya Métis Association and dated January 17, 2025

The MNGA Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. A majority of the eligible voting delegates was required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Growing demands from communities and a need for Chartered Communities to have increased capacity
- Increased funding for communities since pre-COVID levels, with ongoing efforts to further increase funding
- A lack of sustained and predictable funding across all levels of MNBC government
- Decreased funding anticipated from provincial and federal governments, including upcoming cuts to Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) funding

- The pending completion of the MNBC Section 35 report, with federal programs and services for Indigenous peoples being evaluated through the lens of Section 35 rights recognition
- Chartered Communities' attempts to generate revenue
- Assisting Chartered Communities to prepare economic development plans
- The importance of consistent communication from Chartered Communities to guide and strengthen MNBC's advocacy efforts.

In response to questions raised, it was noted that the MNBC:

- Employs over 300 staff across the province and is streamlining operations
- Is conducting an efficiency review to assist with cost-cutting measures
- Has prioritized creating own-source revenue, and refocussed on investments like land purchases and other assets that generate long-term returns rather than investing in structures that MNBC does not own.

It was MOVED (Callum Robinson) and SECONDED (Parick Harriott)

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; and
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 Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) entitled "Stipend for Volunteer Community Elected Members" (attached as Appendix A) be rescinded and replaced with the following:

- A. Métis Nation British Columbia (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; and
- D. Funding allocation is contingent upon compliance with the documentation and accountability measures set forth by the MNBC.

DEFEATED

(6 delegates voted in favour, 34 opposed and 1 abstained)

16. CLOSING REMARKS AND PRAYER

President Mineault expressed gratitude to the Speaker and staff for facilitating the meeting and thanked all participants for their attendance. Jamie Keith provided a Closing Prayer.

CONCLUSION

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Allan Lavallee)

That the March 1-2, 2025 Métis Nation British Columbia 2025 Métis Nation Governing Assembly, now conclude.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (MNGA2501-15)

(Time: March 2, 2025, at 11:35 a.m. PST)

* * *

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the MNBC MNGA held March 1-2, 2025, and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.

Dave Peltier, MNGA Speaker

Nicole Ludwig, MNGA Clerk