



MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY
held May 7-8, 2021
DRAFT MINUTES

Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly held May 7-8, 2021
via videoconference

OFFICIAL DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Lissa Smith, Acting President
Kate Elliott, Métis Women BC Chair
Shaughn Davoren, Métis Youth BC Chair
Patrick Harriott, Region 1 Regional Director (Vancouver Island and Powell River) and Treasurer
Louis De Jaeger, Region 2 Regional Director (Lower Mainland) and Secretary
Dean Gladue, Region 3 Regional Director (Thompson Okanagan)
Debra Fisher, Region 4 Regional Director (Kootenay)
Raynie Gervais, Region 5 Regional Director (North Central)
Susie Hooper, Region 6 Regional Director (Northwest)
Paulette Flamond, Region 7 Regional Director (Northeast)

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Region 1 – Vancouver Island

Tabatha Berggren, President, Métis Nation Powell River
Joy Bremner, President, Mid Island Métis Nation
Lauren Dean, President, Miki'siw Métis Association
June Graham, President, Alberni Clayoquot Métis Association
Charlotte Lever, Vice President, North Island Métis Association
Jan Ovans, Vice-President, Cowichan Valley Métis Association
Jake Rochon, Vice President, The Métis Nation of Greater Victoria Association

Region 2 – Lower Mainland

Harland Coles, President, Nova Métis Heritage Association (Day 1)
Kerry Marion, Vice-President, Nova Métis Heritage Association (Day 1-2)
Anthony Krilow, President, North Fraser Métis Association
Peter Lang, President, Chilliwack Métis Association
Bill LaPointe, President, Waceya Métis Society
Lisa Shepherd, Vice President, Golden Ears Métis Society
Pixie Wells, President, Fraser Valley Métis Society

Region 3 – Thompson Okanagan

David Allard, President, Salmon Arm Métis Association
Cheryl Dodman, President, Kelowna Métis Association
Betty Ann McDonnell, President, Nicola Valley and District Métis Society

Trish Plant, Interim President, Two Rivers Métis Society
Trudi Turner, President, Vermillion Forks Métis Society
Linda van Wieringen, President, Vernon and District Métis Association

Region 4 – Kootenays

Don Courson, President, West Kootenay Métis Society
Monica Fisher, President, Columbia Valley Métis Association
Travis Jobin, President, Métis Nation Columbia River Society
Wendy Schneider, Vice President, Rocky Mountain Métis Association
Myrtle Servatius, President, Kootenay South Métis Society
Jean Sulzer, President, Elk Valley Métis Association

Region 5 – North Central

Tony Goulet, President, North Cariboo Métis Association
Kelly Roberts, President, Prince George Métis Community Association
Marlene Swears, President, The Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association

Region 6 – Northwest

Bonnie Merlo, President, Tri-Rivers Métis Association
Darcie Petuh, President, Northwest BC Métis Association
Joy Sundin, President, Prince Rupert and District Métis Society

Region 7 – Northeast

Jacqueline Alderking, President, Fort St. John Métis Society
Walter Mineault, President, North East Métis Association
Darlene Campbell, President, Moccasin Flats Métis Association

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Peltier, MNGA Speaker
Chris Gall, MNGA Clerk
John Bieker, MNGA Deputy Clerk
Daniel Fontaine, MNBC Chief Executive Officer and
Nick Hosseinzadeh, Associate Director, Communications and Stakeholder Relations

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Christel Guenette, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

DAY ONE – MAY 7, 2021

Agenda Varied

The order of the agenda was varied throughout the meeting. Items are presented in these minutes in the order in which they occurred.

1. OPENING PRAYERS

Senator Elizabeth Hoogendorn and Phillip Gladue provided Opening Prayers.

2. ANTHEMS

2.1 Canadian National Anthem

Delegates participated in singing "O Canada".

2.2 Métis Ballad

Delegates participated in singing the Métis Ballad.

3. WELCOMING AND OPENING COMMENTS

3.1 Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

In a pre-recorded message, the Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) for the Province of BC, offered greetings to delegates in attendance at the MNGA, and recognized the importance of the strong relationship between BC and the Métis people. BC committed to continuing to build the ongoing relationship with MNBC through the Métis Nation Relationship Accord #2, which continued to expand the relationship as they worked together to ensure Métis people had access to social and economic opportunities.

It was noted that the MNBC Annual General Meeting (AGM) passed a resolution affirming self-governance. The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) served as a framework to ensure that the laws of the province upheld the rights of Indigenous peoples and strengthened the collaborative partnership to address social, cultural and economic needs of Métis people. The MNBC played a vital role in spurring the inquiry into anti-Indigenous racism within BC's healthcare system.

Conversations were critical, as the MNBC and the Province of BC continued to work together to advance shared priorities, including the development of DRIPA action plans. BC looked forward to continuing the work together to improve the lives of Métis people in BC.

3.2 Métis Nation of Ontario President Margaret Froh

In a pre-recorded message, Margaret Froh, President, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), offered greetings and well wishes on behalf of the citizens and leadership of MNO, and congratulated MNBC's accomplishment with the recent launch of MÉTV.

President Froh commended senior officials in working together for the betterment of all Métis governments. *Powley*, led by MNO for the benefit of all Métis people, led the foundation for recent advances, like the Canada-Métis Nation Accord and core self-government agreements. MNO would continue to fight for Métis rights, recognition and respect and realize ancestors' dreams.

3.3 MNBC Acting President Lissa Smith

Lissa Smith, Acting President, MNBC, welcomed delegates to the MNGA, and thanked the Senators for the Opening Prayers.

The Acting President acknowledged efforts of leadership and volunteers from across the province for their tireless work over the course of the pandemic. MNBC was driven by its grassroots to serve the Métis people and communities. COVID-19 added to that burden. There were no words to express the sincere gratitude of the Board of Directors, staff and citizens for their work.

The Board of Directors was committed to being responsive to communities needs and heard that communication between the MNBC and Chartered Communities needed improvement. As such, engagement would improve moving forward. During spring 2021, consultation sessions were held with Chartered Community Presidents on the annual budget. Additional details on the new budget consultation process would be provided in the future. Engagement sessions were scheduled for May 19, 20 and 26, 2021, to receive proposals for the new Métis centres. It was imperative to engage communities on needs assessments to be included in future projects from start to finish.

In response to the need for additional resources, the Board of Directors created Community Capacity and Cultural Access grants to assist in building capacity for cultural activities. An investment was made into developing the new Chartered Community Portal, which would become a sole source for resources and information.

An historic vote was held during the 2020 Annual General Meeting for self-government. While there was more to be done, MNBC received positive feedback from both provincial and federal governments. A strong relationship was sought with all levels of government, including First Nations, and the Governments of Canada and BC. To support this work, MNBC would expand the capacity of its Public Affairs Team to assist in negotiations related to the Métis Nation Relationship Accords with BC, which would assist the nation in its move towards self-government.

Elders were deeply impacted by the pandemic, and current programming did not meet their needs. Communities identified the need for dedicated Elder's resources. MNBC announced that it would launch a six-month Elder Benefit Program, for low income seniors, which would provide \$2,500 for individuals and \$4,000 per couple. These funds would assist in purchasing needed equipment, such as hearing aids, walkers, glasses, dentures, etc.

Education and skills training provided economic prosperity and opportunity for BC Métis citizens. MNBC advocated for distinctions-based funding, which was successful during the current budget cycle. This funding would allow access to Métis central training and education and provided the opportunity to open the doors for the first MNBC Training Institute. This institution would offer Métis the opportunity to train beside fellow Métis to learn skills that would lead to substantive equality for their families.

MNBC's main office was relocating to the Station Tower in Surrey in June 2021, which would centralize operations in one location and allow improved access to citizens and dignitaries with its close proximity to the Sky Train. The lease agreement enabled MNBC to fly the Métis flag outside of the office, which was a first and a monumental occasion.

The integrity of the MNBC registry was important. The Board of Directors was committed to ensure that it remained the "gold standard" by approving the \$1.1 million to fund the Wahkohtowin (Registry Renewal) project, which would replace the current system with updated technology, improve services, and enable the MNBC to become the first Indigenous government to go paperless. Additionally, the registry was being transformed to strengthen the verification process for new citizenship files.

A province-wide recruitment strategy was under development to invest in future MNBC employees. Recruitment would begin in Region 7 with a dedicated employee in Fort St. John. MNBC remains committed to accountability to its citizens and communities, and has launched

an open and transparent initiative, which would post MNBC finances and Board of Directors meeting minutes. Board of Directors meetings will soon be live streamed. Town Hall meetings will be held during AGMs. Town Hall meetings will be held quarterly – the first was scheduled June 30, 2021.

Acting President Smith commented on the court case between President Clara Morin Dal Col and the Board of Directors. Following motions tabled in January 2021, President Morin Dal Col brought court actions to seek an injunction against MNBC. MNBC's position remained that the dispute should be decided in accordance with MNBC's Senate and MNBC's own policies and procedures. This argument was made to the judge presiding over the case, and a decision was expected in the following week. If MNBC wanted to be legally recognized on a government-to-government basis, it needed to exercise its right to self-government. MNBC would host a question-and-answer session following the decision on May 17, 2021.

Thanks were extended to MNBC staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the previous year.

4. ROLL CALL – QUORUM ANNOUNCED

MNGA Clerk Chris Gall read aloud the names of delegates and welcomed them to verbally indicate their presence. After concluding the Roll Call, he confirmed that 43 official voting delegates were in attendance, which set quorum at 22.

5. NOMINATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MNGA SPEAKER

Nominations for 2021 MNGA Speaker, were welcomed. Dave Peltier was nominated and consented to the nomination. After calling three times for further nominations and hearing none, Mr. Peltier was acclaimed to the position of MNGA Speaker.

Lisa Shepherd, Vice-President of the Golden Ears Métis Society, joined the MNGA delegates at this time.

6. CALL TO ORDER

The Official Business of the 2021 MNGA scheduled May 7-8, 2021, was called to order on Day One – May 7, 2021, at approximately 9:55 a.m. Speaker Peltier outlined the rules of conduct that would apply to debates during the MNGA and confirmed that the procedures of the *MNGA Act* would guide the order of business. Eli Mina, Parliamentarian, was introduced, who would provide advice as needed on *Roberts Rules of Order*.

7. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MNGA 2021 DRAFT AGENDA

Related materials distributed in the MNGA 2021 Agenda package: Draft Agenda of the Métis Nation British Columbia Governing Assembly scheduled May 7-8, 2021

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

That the Agenda for the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) scheduled May 7-8, 2021, be accepted.

Discussion on the Motion

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Difficulties experienced by delegates in accessing the agenda package in advance of the meeting
- The process used to cast votes on motions

- Time provided during the agenda to ask questions.

Question on the Motion

The question was called on the motion. Voting was conducted via the poll function. MNGA Clerk Gall announced the results of the poll. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the motion was:

CARRIED (MNGA2101-01)

(Three delegates opposed; seven delegates abstained from the vote)

8. REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2020 MNGA DRAFT MINUTES

Related materials distributed in the MNGA 2021 Agenda package: Draft Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly held March 6-8, 2020

Delegates agreed that a reading of the minutes was not required.

It was MOVED (William LaPointe) and SECONDED (Wendy Schneider)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) held March 6-8, 2020, be accepted, with the following amendment:

- Page 2, replace “Prince George Métis Association” with “Prince George Métis Community Association”.

CARRIED (MNGA2101-02)

(One delegate opposed; six delegates abstained from the vote)

9. TABLING OF WRITTEN REPORTS

Related materials distributed in the MNGA 2021 Agenda package:

- “MNBC Board Reports”
- “Ministry Reports”
- “Senate Reports”
- “Community Reports”

It was MOVED (Louis De Jaeger) and SECONDED (Jake Rochon)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) receive for information, the following items, and the written reports therein:

- *Report titled “Métis Nation British Columbia Board Reports”*
- *Report titled “Ministry Reports”*
- *Report titled “Senate Reports”*
- *Report titled “Community Reports”.*

Discussion on the Motion

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Circulating the reports in a means that enables delegates to print; options should be supplied to receive agenda items as a hard copy
- Increased time needed to review reports in advance of the meeting.

Question on the Motion

The question was called on the motion. Voting was conducted via the poll function. MNGA Clerk Gall announced the results of the poll. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the motion was:

CARRIED (MNGA2101-03)

(One delegate opposed; eight delegates abstained from the vote)

10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) REPORT

Daniel Fontaine reviewed a presentation titled “Chief Executive Officer Report: 2021 MNGA, A Year in Review”, and offered comments on:

- Activities of the Office of the CEO, which included regular meetings with the senior management team and hiring of new senior staff
- Meetings held with key officials within all levels of government (provincial, federal, First Nations, Métis Nation and municipal)
- New initiatives and funding for Chartered communities to increase resources and capacity, and assist with “volunteer burnout” at the local level
- Continued efforts to improve staff morale within MNBC, including the *Employer of Choice* initiative, which aimed to attract and retain top talent to the nation
- Restructuring of the Finance Department to increase capacity for financial reporting and support ministries
- Ratifying the MNBC Budget 2021, including review by Cabinet and public consultation
- Changes within the Central Registry Department with the goal to decrease pressing times
- Changes within administration, including additional staff and the relocation of the MNBC head offices to Surrey Gateway in June 2021
- Increased capacity within Public Affairs to support negotiations of the Métis Nation Reconciliation Agreement 3.0, various sub-accords, and the establishment of a secretariat
- Communication improvements, including the new Chartered Community Portal project to streamline communications, and increased presence on social media with the launch of MéTV.

Recess

The Assembly recessed at 11:03 a.m. and reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Providing support to MNBC citizens with no connections to the Chartered Community supplying services:
 - Métis individuals need to be encouraged to apply for MNBC citizenship to ensure Chartered Communities have adequate resources to provide services
 - The Ministry of Community Services and Citizenship Services was created to recruit Métis individuals to engage and register with the Central Registry
 - MNBC has requirements provide services to individuals who self-identify as Métis; funding was provided by the province to provide these services
- Staff following protocols when receiving citizenship applications and being provided cultural training to ensure that individuals are safe when interacting with staff:
 - Any negative experiences should be reported to the Regional Director or Deputy Registrar to resolve issues
- Challenges experienced in providing services to individuals who self-identify at Métis:
 - Funds meant for MNBC citizens were directed toward self-identifying Métis, which limited services that could be provided to citizens
- Promoting employment at MNBC for Métis citizens:
 - Métis staff were provided training opportunities to increase capacity and enable advancement within the organization
- Encouraging youth participation by providing career opportunities through MNBC:
 - MNBC is focussed on recruiting youth for entry level positions
- A report conducted by a human resources consultant, which provided recommendations on organizational structure and staffing:

- The *Employer of Choice* initiative and wage levelling were based on recommendations provided by the consultant
- Preventing Métis citizens of different Governing Members from accessing supports from MNBC and their home Governing Member:
 - Staff were directed to ask individuals accessing supports whether they were accepting similar funds from other organizations or government
 - Individuals accessing supports from multiple Governing Members should be reported to MNBC senior staff for review
- Input needed by Chartered Community Presidents prior to making changes to boundaries
- Promoting the 2021 Canadian Census to ensure individuals identify as being part of the MNBC to increased funding dollars distributed to MNBC:
 - Those who self-identify as Métis would not check the box indicating their citizenship with MNBC, which could decrease governmental funding
- Limitations in joint funding, which does not supply adequate funding for rent and utilities of regional offices; staff are needed in regional offices to support Chartered Communities:
 - Efforts of the Public Affairs team to locate funding, such as the Innovation Fund
 - Communities were able to pool their resources to fund administration support salaries
- Creation of regional offices to ensure communities have the local support needed to provide programs and services to citizens, and to locate additional program dollars:
 - A proposal writer was hired, accessible to all Chartered Communities, to assist in submitting applications to government
 - Staff were directed to simplify application forms
 - Funds were held in the Housing Budget to purchase land in regions to serve as a hub for offices, community centres and gathering spaces
- Processing times for citizenship applications:
 - Processing time was forecasted to decrease over the coming year
- Providing citizenship numbers to Chartered Communities:
 - Privacy restrictions may prohibit citizenship numbers from being shared.

ESTABLISH QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

MNGA Clerk Chris Gall confirmed that there was a quorum of delegates present, with 40 official voting delegates in attendance, which set quorum at 21.

11. RESOLUTIONS

11.1 Resolution #1 – *Natural Resources Act* – Housekeeping and Updates

It was MOVED (Susie Hooper) and SECONDED (Louis De Jaeger)

WHEREAS:

- A. It is necessary to ensure that the wording of MNBC legislation withstands critical grammatical scrutiny, is unambiguous in language, and reflects current conditions; and
- B. The recent creation of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Métis Rights requires certain clauses of the *Natural Resources Act* be modified to reflect current conditions.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The following changes be made to the *Natural Resources Act*:

Change “land-use” to “land use” throughout the Act;

2.4: Change “seven voting regional Captain of Natural Resources” to “eight voting

- regional Captains of the Hunt”;
- 2.5: Change “**Captain of Natural Resources**” to “**Captain of the Hunt**”;
- 2.7: Change “Director of Natural Resources” to “Senior Director of Natural Resources”;
- 2.12: Strike “by the President of the MNBC”;
- 2.13: Change “Ministry of Natural Resources” to “Ministry of Economic Development and Natural Resources”, change “Minister of Natural Resources” to “Minister of Economic Development and Natural Resources”, change “Director of Natural Resources” to “Senior Director of Economic Development and Natural Resources.”;

Add the following definitions:

“**Minister of Environmental Protection**” means the MNBC Board Member that has been assigned the Environmental Protection and Métis Rights Ministry.

“**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 the British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources (BCMANR).

“**Senior Director of Environmental Protection**” means a person that is employed by the MNBC Secretariat with the requisite expertise and experience in environmental protection.

Re-arrange the definitions listed under Article 2 to be in alphabetical order, and re-number the definitions as needed.

- 4.0: Change “Ministry of Natural Resources” to “Ministry of Environmental Protection”;
- 4.3: Change clause to read “The Senior Director of Environmental Protection shall make a formal written request to the MNBC for all expenditures of BCMANR.”;
- 4.4: Change “Ministry of Natural Resources” to “Ministry of Environmental Protection”;
- 5.1: Change clause to read “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.”;

Add “Purposes” to the end of the Article Six Header, so it reads “Harvesting for Profit and Commercial Purposes”;

- 8.9: Change “over-turned” to “overturned”;
- 9.1.9: Change “a member of a class of Métis Citizens” to “Métis Citizens”, change “lake, stream or area” to “lake, stream or area for special designated harvests”;
- 9.4: Strike the entire clause;
- 10.1: Change clause to “The Environmental Protection Policy is the responsibility of the MNBC Ministry of Environmental Protection”;
- 10.3: Strike the entire clause;

- 11.1: Change “the responsibility of the MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources” to “the joint responsibility of the MNBC Ministries of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection”;
- 11.2: Strike the entire clause;
- 11.5: Change clause to “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.”;
- 11.6.2: Change “MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources” to “The MNBC Ministry of Economic Development and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Environmental Protection”;
- 11.7.5: Change “legal precedents” to “existing case law”;
- 12.2 b: Change “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 Natural Resources must sanction the apprehension.” to “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 must sanction the apprehension.”; and

Re-number the clauses as required.

Discussion on the Motion

During discussion, comments were offered regarding engagement with British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources (BCMANR) to draft the resolution.

Motion to Postpone

It was MOVED (Donald Courson) and SECONDED (Linda Van Wieringen)

That consideration of Resolution #1 be postponed to the 2022 Métis Nation Governing Assembly.

Discussion on the Motion to Postpone

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Significant changes to the *Natural Resources Act* which would affect the relationship between Ministries regarding consultation and research programs
- Need for added engagement with Chartered Community Presidents and BCMANR
- Changes made to the *Natural Resource Act*, which were housekeeping in nature and divided responsibilities between the two new Ministries
- Input provided by the Captains of the Hunt, who approved changes to the *Natural Resources Act*
- Different streams of reporting required by BCMANR and the Minister of Natural Resources.

Question on the Motion to Postpone

The question was called on the motion. Voting was conducted via the poll function. MNGA Clerk Gall announced the results of the poll. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the motion was:

DEFEATED

(Seven delegates in favor; three delegates abstained from the vote)

Recess

The meeting recessed at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

MNGA Clerk Chris Gall confirmed that there was a quorum of delegates present, with 42 official voting delegates in attendance, which set quorum at 23.

11.1 Resolution #1 – *Natural Resources Act* – Housekeeping and Updates (Continued)

Question on the Main Motion

The question was called on the main motion. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the motion was:

CARRIED (MNGA2101-04)

(Three delegates opposed; two delegates abstained from the vote)

11.2 Resolution #2 – *Electoral Act* Committee

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Dean Gladue)

WHEREAS:

- A. The legislation of the Nation is subject to the “living tree” doctrine which provides that a Nation should be vigilant to ensure that legislation is current, and adapted to the changes brought about through time;
- B. It is essential to the furtherance of Métis democracy that the rules of the provincial election are effective, current, and fair to both candidates and Citizen electors; and
- C. Discussion on the existing legislation, and potential changes to legislation, regarding MNBC elections, is of interest to all Citizens, and their input should actively be sought.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA directs that an ad-hoc committee be established to review the MNBC *Electoral Act* and make recommendations to the MNGA on possible changes to the legislation; and
- B. The Electoral Act Committee consist of the following:
 - a. One appointee from each of the seven MNBC Regions, as determined by the respective Regional Governance Councils;
 - b. One appointee as determined by the MWBC Provincial Committee;
 - c. One appointee as determined by the MYBC Provincial Committee;
 - d. One appointee as determined by the MNBC Board of Directors; and
 - e. MNBC support staff as required, as non-voting participants.

Discussion on the Motion

During discussion, it was agreed by unanimous consent to insert “*and any other pertinent legislation regarding elections*” between “*MNBC Electoral Act*” and “*and make recommendations*”.

Main Motion as Amended

WHEREAS:

- A. The legislation of the Nation is subject to the “living tree” doctrine which provides that a Nation should be vigilant to ensure that legislation is current, and adapted to the changes brought about through time;
- B. It is essential to the furtherance of Métis democracy that the rules of the provincial election are effective, current, and fair to both candidates and Citizen electors; and
- C. Discussion on the existing legislation, and potential changes to legislation, regarding MNBC elections, is of interest to all Citizens, and their input should actively be sought.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNGA directs that an ad-hoc committee be established to review the MNBC *Electoral Act* and any other pertinent legislation regarding elections, and make recommendations to the MNGA on possible changes to the legislation; and
- B. The Electoral Act Committee consist of the following:
 - a. One appointee from each of the seven MNBC Regions, as determined by the respective Regional Governance Councils;
 - b. One appointee as determined by the MWBC Provincial Committee;
 - c. One appointee as determined by the MYBC Provincial Committee;
 - d. One appointee as determined by the MNBC Board of Directors; and
 - e. MNBC support staff as required, as non-voting participants.

Question on the Motion

The question was called on the motion. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the motion was:

CARRIED (MNGA2101-05)

(Six delegates abstained from the vote.)

11.3 Resolution #3 – MNGA Speaker

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Susie Hooper)

WHEREAS:

- A. The current requirements for the Speaker of the MNGA, as currently written in the MNGA Act, allow for any person, whether or not they are Métis, to be appointed as Speaker of the MNGA; and
- B. As a self-governing Nation, Métis Nation British Columbia has the right and responsibility to govern itself amongst its own members, and to be governed free from any external influence.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Article 5.2 of the MNGA Act be amended by:

Adding the following:

- A. At the end of the Article, the words “but must be a registered MNBC Citizen pursuant to the *Citizenship Act.*”, so the full article reads:

5.0: The Speaker and Deputy Speaker shall:

- 5.2 May be made from within or outside the MNGA, but must be a registered MNBC Citizen pursuant to the *Citizenship Act*;

Discussion on the Motion

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Support for the motion as it promoted self-governance
- Including youth in the role to build capacity
- Whether to extend the provisions to the AGM Speaker.

Question on the Motion

The question was called on the motion. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the motion was:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2101-06)

11.4 Resolution #4 – MYBC Terms of Office

It was MOVED (Shaughn Davoren) and SECONDED (Kate Elliott)

WHEREAS:

- A. The Métis Youth of British Columbia are a valuable resource for and on behalf of the Métis Citizens and people of British Columbia, an effective voice in the MNBC governance process, and an excellent model for the Canadian Métis and the Canadian population in general;
- B. The other provincially elected positions within MNBC are elected for 4-year terms; and
- C. For uniformity and simplicity, all provincially elected positions within MNBC should be for the same term length.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Article 6.2 of the MNBC *Youth Act* be amended to have all Regional Youth Representatives elected for a four (4) year term by:

Replacing the existing Article 6.2 with the following:

- A. “*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.*”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The amended Article 6.2 does not take effect until the 2024 MNBC Provincial Election; and
- B. For further certainty, the positions of Regional Youth Representatives of the MYBC are subject to election in 2022 as currently legislated under the MNBC *Youth Act*.

Discussion on the Motion

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Providing flexibility within policies and procedures to support youth representatives to re-evaluate their commitment to fulfill the remainder of their term due to life events
- Challenges experienced during two-year terms in the continuity of work being addressed
- Including an aging out clause to ensure youth continue to represent youth
- Instituting two MYBC Chairs (one male and one female), to ensure continuity throughout the term

- Honouring direction provided by youth, and evaluating different timelines for youth representative vacancies
- Improving engagement with youth to ensure youth programs reflect youths' realities:
 - Chartered Community Presidents should have an opportunity to engage with youth to determine their support on resolutions prior to the AGM
- Creation of internship programs to provide opportunities for participation within MNBC's governance structure and community activities
- Concerns related to the number of youths that attend AGMs and can speak:
 - Youth should be encouraged to participate in the AGM to ensure their voices and perspectives are heard
- Consideration that the Provincial Youth Committee put forward the resolution through the Provincial Youth Chairperson:
 - The Provincial Youth Committee was elected by their peers to represent their interests.

Question on the Motion

The question was called on the motion. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the motion was:

CARRIED (MNGA2101-07)

(Two delegates opposed; six delegates abstained from the vote)

Speaker Peltier confirmed that a discussion would be held with the Minister of Youth to develop options for youth consultation and engagement leading up to the AGM.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 2:41 p.m. and reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

MNGA Clerk Chris Gall confirmed that there was a quorum of delegates present, with 45 official voting delegates in attendance, which set quorum at 23.

11.5 Resolution #5 – Senate Timelines

It was MOVED (Dean Gladue) and SECONDED (Raynie Gervais)

WHEREAS:

- A. The MNBC Senate, as the independent, non-political judicial branch of the MNBC governance structure, is a vitally important part of MNBC Governance;
- B. MNBC Citizens have the right to submit appeals, apply for dispute resolution, and mediation sessions to the MNBC Senate; and
- C. While Citizens have a right to make applications to the Senate for the aforementioned issues, it is reasonable to have a defined time period where submissions to the Senate can be accepted.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Article 9 of the *Senate Act* be amended to add a defined time frame for MNBC Citizens to apply for an appeal, where time frames are not currently existing in legislation:

- A. Add the following:

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.*

B. Subsequent articles be re-numbered as required.

Discussion on the Motion

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Procedural fairness, and the ability for individuals to appeal decisions
- Setting a 90-day timeframe to ensure sufficient time to align all supporting information:
 - The Senate supported the 60-day timeframe, which was in alignment with other judicial processes
- Providing notification in writing of the decision regarding the event, prior to the 60-day timeframe beginning; extensions should be considered due to extenuating circumstances.

Amendment to the Motion

It was MOVED (Donald Courson) and SECONDED (Dean Gladue)

That the Main Motion be amended by revising Article 9.2 to include “receipt of written notice” after “sixty (60) days of”.

Discussion on the Amendment

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Uncertainty related to when notices were received by the recipient, dependent on the means on which the information was begin transmitted
- Various appeals that are heard by the Senate
- Rights of appellants to receive written decisions.

Question on the Amendment

The question was called on the amendment. Voting was conducted via the poll function. MNGA Clerk Gall announced the results of the poll. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the motion was:

DEFEATED

(Eleven delegates in favor; seven delegates abstained from the vote)

Discussion on the Main Motion

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Acceptable requests for extension that could be heard by the Senate:
 - Judicial bodies considered reasons for missing deadlines, and the intention to apply for an extension
- Confirmation that the amendment was prospective and not retrospective.

Question on the Main Motion

The question was called on the main motion. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the motion was:

CARRIED (MNGA2101-08)

(Three delegates opposed; four delegates abstained from the vote)

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled May 7-8, 2021 adjourned on Day One – May 7, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. after setting the time to reconvene on Day Two – May 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

DAY TWO – MAY 8, 2021

ASSEMBLY RECONVENED - CALL TO ORDER

The Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled May 7-8, 2021 reconvened on Day Two – May 8, 2021 at 9:01 a.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM (ROLL CALL)

MNGA Clerk Chris Gall confirmed that there was a quorum of delegates present, with 42 official voting delegates in attendance, which set quorum at 23.

11.6 Resolution #6 – Constitutional Amendment – MNGA-AGM Timelines

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

WHEREAS:

- A. A constitution of a Nation represents the will of its people, and sets out the principles under which the citizens of a Nation have agreed to be governed, and is subject to the “living tree” doctrine which provides that a nation should be vigilant to ensure that its constitution is current and adapted to changes brought about through time;
- B. The MNBC *Constitution* is the supreme governing legislation for the Métis Citizens of British Columbia, and, from time to time, it is deemed necessary to review its provisions, and to incorporate any changes that may be due to the changing times and the needs and wishes of the Métis Citizens of British Columbia, and to provide clarity where it is seen to be required;
- C. It is good governance for the MNBC to have any rules and restrictions, specifically regarding the threshold of MNBC Citizens that must approve any further amendments to the *Constitution* transparently stated in the *Constitution*;
- D. The current COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the inflexibility of MNBC Legislation, leading to the 2020 AGM passing a motion to suspend an Article of the *Constitution* to allow flexibility in scheduling the dates of the MNGA and AGM; and
- E. MNBC legislation should be written to allow flexibility in extenuating circumstances, and any suspension or overriding of MNBC legislation should be altogether avoided.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The following sections of the *Constitution* be amended as follows:

In Article 32:

Change the word “shall” to “must”;

Add the text “Subject to extenuating circumstances” after the text “at least five (5) months prior to the MNBC Annual General Meeting.”, so it reads:

Article 32: The Métis Nation Governing Assembly must meet at least once per year in British Columbia at a meeting called with no less than sixty (60) days’ notice to the MNGA Members by the MNBC. The meeting must be held at least five (5) months prior to the MNBC Annual General Meeting, subject to extenuating circumstances. The notice requirement does not apply to

Article 32.1.

In Article 68:

Change the word “shall” to “must”; and

Strike the words “during the month of September”, so it reads:

Article 68: “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.”

Discussion on the Motion

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Concerns related to the provisions within the *MNGA Act*, which counted abstention votes in the negative
- Concerns related to the phrase “extenuating circumstances”, which could be subject to interpretation
 - Extenuating circumstances must be justified
- Right of every Chartered Community President to speak for their community, regardless of when they arrive at the meeting.

Question on the Motion

The question was called on the motion. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the motion was:

CARRIED (MNGA2101-09)

(One delegate opposed; one delegate abstained from the vote)

11.7 Resolution #7 – Constitutional Amendment – Amending Formula

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

WHEREAS:

- A. A constitution of a Nation represents the will of its people, and sets out the principles under which the citizens of a Nation have agreed to be governed, and is subject to the “living tree” doctrine which provides that a nation should be vigilant to ensure that its constitution is current and adapted to changes brought about through time;
- B. The *MNBC Constitution* is the supreme governing legislation for the Métis Citizens of British Columbia, and, from time to time, it is deemed necessary to review its provisions, and to incorporate any changes that may be due to the changing times and the needs and wishes of the Métis Citizens of British Columbia, and to provide clarity where it is seen to be required;
- C. It is good governance for the MNBC to have any rules and restrictions, specifically regarding the threshold of MNBC Citizens that must approve any further amendments to the *Constitution* transparently stated in the *Constitution*; and
- D. The *Constitution* does not specify an amending formula.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Section “Amendment” of the *Constitution* be amended to mirror the amending formula that currently exists in the Bylaws of the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia by:

Adding the following:

A. 73. *This Constitution will only be amended by the following process:*

73.1 *Any amendment must be ratified by the MNGA, pursuant to the legislation of the MNGA Act;*

73.2 *Amendments ratified by the MNGA are then presented for final approval to the Citizens in present at the MNBC AGM.*

73.3 *Ratification requires at least seventy-five (75%) of votes cast to be in favour of the proposed amendment.*

Discussion on the Motion

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Responsibility of delegates to be present for all votes:
 - Resolutions could be tabled at the beginning of the meeting to ensure the greatest attendance for the votes
- Amending the ratification threshold to 65%
- Challenges experienced by delegates during the AGM related to connectivity issues:
 - Improvements for future virtual meetings would be made based on lessons learned from the MNBC 2020 AGM
 - Those advanced in technology could sit with Elders to assist them in navigating the technology
 - Whether MNBC would fund high speed internet for rural and remote communities
- The need for consistency between the *MNGA Act* and the *MNBC Constitution*
- Use of hybrid meetings in the future to enable most citizens, especially those in rural and remote areas, to attend AGMs, and relieve financial burdens on communities in attending in-person meetings
- The need for citizens to be informed of the resolutions, rather than abstaining
 - Delegates used time provided during in-person meetings to consult with peers to better understand resolutions
- Beginning the process of aligning amending formulas within the *MNGA Act* and the *MNBC Constitution*
- Reasons delegates would choose to abstain from voting, including resolutions pertaining to other Chartered Communities.

Motion to Postpone

It was MOVED (Linda Van Wieringen) and SECONDED (Jacqueline Alderking)

That Consideration of Resolution #7 be postponed to the 2022 Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA), to align how an abstaining vote is counted between the MNGA and the Annual General Meeting so they are consistently counted at the meetings.

Discussion on the Motion to Postpone

During discussion, comments were offered regarding concerns related to extended delays in aligning the amending formulas between the MNGA and AGM.

Question on the Motion to Postpone

The question was called on the motion. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the motion was:

DEFEATED

(Three delegates voted in favor)

Question on the Main Motion

The question was called on the main motion. MNGA Clerk Gall conducted a roll call vote. MNGA Speaker Peltier then declared that the vote was:

CARRIED (MNGA2101-10)

(Three delegates abstained from the vote)

12. CLOSING COMMENTS

MNGA Speaker Peltier thanked delegates for conducting a respectful meeting and expressed appreciation for concerns that were raised.

13. CLOSING PRAYER

Senator Phillip Edkins provided a Closing Prayer.

CONCLUSION

It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Lisa Shepherd)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled May 7-8, 2021, now conclude.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (MNGA2101-11)

(Time: May 8, 2021 at 10:48 a.m.)

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled May 7-8, 2021, and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.

Susie Hooper, Secretary

Lissa Smith, Acting President