



MEETING MINUTES			
Meeting:	MNGA Governance Committee		
Date of Meeting:	January 26-27, 2024	Time:	9:36 AM
Minutes Prepared By:	Nicole Ludwig	Location:	MNBC Headquarters
Attendance			
<p>Participating Members: Dave Allard, Chair; Caitlin Bird; Carmen Carriere; Patrick Harriott; Travis Jobin; Jamie-Lee Keith; Dawn McConnell (January 27 only); Peggy Olanski; Marlene Swears; Pixie Wells</p> <p>Staff: John Bieker, Chief Governance Officer; Nicole Ludwig, Manager of Governance</p> <p><i>Note: the minutes are consolidated for ease of reference.</i></p>			
1. Welcome			
<p>Prior to the meeting staff provided a tour of MNBC Headquarters for all members.</p> <p>David Allard assumed the Chair at 9:36 AM on January 26, 2024. Patrick Harriott provided an opening prayer.</p>			
1.1 Adoption of Meeting Agenda			
<p>By unanimous consent, the Committee agreed to consider item 2 after item 4 on the agenda. The minutes are recorded in numerical order.</p>			
1.2 Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting			
<p>Motion: MOVED: Travis Jobin SECONDED: Pixie Wells RESOLVED: BE IT RESOLVED THAT The minutes of the MNGA Governance Committee meeting of Thursday, November 23, 2023 be adopted with Peggy Olanski moved from the "Present" to the "Regrets" category.</p> <p>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p>			
2. MNGA Act			
<p>Note: <i>this matter was considered following item 5.</i></p> <p>John Bieker, Chief Governance Officer, reviewed the proposed changes to the <i>MNGA Act</i>, noting that since the shift to three MNGAs per year, the <i>Act</i> requires updating to make the best use of time. He noted that the legislative cycle is not nimble, and should be careful, deliberate, and cautious. He also explained that the changes proposed to the <i>Act</i> allow for a second look at legislative amendments.</p>			



In discussion, members noted:

- Concerns with the use of colonial terms and constructs including “first reading” and “second reading”; and an alternative may be to develop a procedure that allows a matter to be brought before the assembly again;
- Encouragement of the development of procedural toolbox for MNGA representatives;
- There are areas where the language could more exact and concise;
- A current issue is that even when Community leaders reach out for feedback from the Community, there is little response;
- The MNGA is in a good position to provide strategic direction to MNBC so that more engagement can be accomplished;
- Need to take another look at the concept of abstaining as a neutral vote to confirm quorum.

Staff agreed to revisit the proposed changes to the *MNGA Act* with attention to the following key issues:

- Remove first and second readings;
- Be explicit that a postponement requires a majority vote;
- Develop a mechanism and process whereby a matter approved at a previous MNGA (but not approved at an AGM) can be reopened, fully or partially, for further amendments at a future MNGA.

3. Chartered Community Agreements

Mr. Bieker provided an overview of the topic, noting that the language in Chartered Community Agreements requires updating to reflect modern relationships.

Discussion included some of the following comments:

- There needs to be a consensus on mutual recognition between MNBC and Communities, and among the different Communities themselves;
- Support from MNBC for ongoing/existing initiatives in Communities needs to be just support, recognizing that there are roles for both Communities and MNBC in these initiatives; a menu of sorts where Communities can choose the level of support they want/need may be appropriate;
- MNBC support may be on a sliding scale, since different Communities will have different needs depending on a number of factors, including the state of local relationships;
- MNBC often behaves as if the relationship is closer to a parent-child relationship, when in reality Métis Communities have been in existence longer than MNBC;
- There is a need to support the collective, but still have room for disagreement, balance Community with self-government, and move from a hierarchical relationship to a more collaborative one.

In response to the discussion, Mr. Bieker led a discussion regarding the structure of the relationship between MNBC and Communities, which included the determination of core principles that influenced much of the remainder of the discussion throughout the weekend.



1. Represent Métis People:

- Métis uses MNC definition.

2. MNBC is the Métis government in BC

- No affiliation with BC Métis Federation (BCMF) or Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF);
- Recognition of legitimacy of MNBC Governance structure, including *Constitution* and other Legislation.

3. Communities are the base level of Métis Government

- To create a Community, a minimum of 25 Citizens agree to voluntarily support the Community as representative of Métis people in a geographic area;
- MNGA recognizes the Community's legitimacy and authority in a defined geographic area.

A detailed summary of the workshop is attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

3.1 Conflict Resolution

In discussion, members noted the following:

- Concerns around Senate involvement in political matters;
- Step 1 needs to be worked on, and suggested adding an intervening step before going to the Senate; this could involve the RGCs;
- There may be a role for a Grandmothers or Elders Council;
- The possibility of Restorative Justice/Sharing Circles to jump start the conflict resolution/healing process;
- Accountabilities need to be defined at the outset.

Mr. Bieker led a discussion based around determining accountabilities. The Committee agreed there are different spheres of influence and therefore different kinds of accountabilities, specifically collective (political) and bilateral (apolitical), and the Committee analyzed the sections of the Chartered Community agreement (distributed with the agenda).

Collective Accountable (Political)	Bilateral Accountable (Apolitical)
Core principles (include sections 2.4; 2.8; 2.9;	MNBC -> Chartered Community Financial Reporting
Discharging appropriate spheres of influence.	
Chartered Community Agreement Sections	
1.1 to 2.3; 2.7; 4.1 to 4.3; 4.4.	2.5; 2.6; 3.2; 3.3; 4.5; 5.1b; 6.1; 8.1 to 8.3

The Committee also identified pieces of the proposed Chartered Community Agreement that require more work and would deal with categorizing those sections after changes have been proposed and adopted by the Committee.

A detailed summary of the discussion is attached to these Minutes as Appendix A.



3.2 Information Sharing Agreements

In discussion, members noted:

- There is a need to identify the types of information that is to be shared between MNBC and Communities, as well as mechanisms, and when and why it needs to be shared;
- Shared information should be useful for both sides;
- Communities need support in addition to regional director support to get information out.

The Committee adjourned on January 26, 2024, at 4:00 PM and reconvened at 9:20 AM on January 27, 2024.

Jamie-Lee Keith provided an opening prayer.

4. MNGA Act: Conflict of Interest

Mr. Bieker introduced the topic noting that conflict of interest (COI) is not an inherently bad thing, but it becomes a problem when a person is not honest about having a COI. He reminded members about the core principles discussed the previous day.

In discussion, members noted:

- If an MNGA member fundamentally opposes the existence of MNBC, they would likely have a COI participating;
- Clarify the difference between Nation and corporate entity;
- Need to identify a process that provides adequate notice for all parties involved in the COI, along with a mechanism to waive notice if it is discovered after the notice period;
- There should be evidence of a COI available, and this should be included in the motion being brought forward;
- Relational COI should be dealt with on a personal basis, possibly through a healing circle or restorative justice;
- Develop a template motion that can be used so that people know what needs to be included.

Following this item, the Committee considered item 2. The minutes are recorded in numerical order.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Bieker thanked everyone for attending and noted that the following items were not considered at this meeting and would be added to a future MNGA Governance Committee agenda:

- 5.0 Resources for Governing Ministries
- 6.0 Citizen Participation and Attendance at General Meetings
- 6.1 Increasing Citizen Participation and Attendance at AGMs
- 6.2 Using SGMs for Constitutional and Legislative Changes

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to cancel the February meeting as it is close to the MNGA.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM on January 27, 2024.



Next Meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2024 - Confirmed

Note: the schedule of rotating chairs below has been updated to accommodate the cancelled February meeting.

Month	Chair
February	CANCELLED
March	Caitlin Bird
April	Carmen Carriere
May	Patrick Herriott
June	Travis Jobin
July	Jamie-Lee Keith
August	Peggy Olanski
September	Dawn McConnell
October	Marlene Swears
November	Pixie Wells

Appendix A: Summary of Item 3 – Community Charter Agreements

Core Principles: What makes a Chartered Community?

The following represent the “must-haves” to have a Chartered Community

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Other Discussion points:

- Communities differ in their needs; instead of trying to be all things to all Citizens, MNBC may be more effective on working with Communities to their own individual needs;
- Communities are often a cultural hub for the community and not a service provider;
- There is a need to agree on a collective goal and vision, and recognized roles for Communities and MNBC;
- The relationship is often cast as a parent (MNBC) – child (Chartered Community) relationship and this is likely not the best way to do it; over time, the relationship has shifted from a hierarchical relationship to more of a circle with MNBC (Board of Directors) being a part of the circle and not the centre;
- Society needs leadership and MNBC along with Communities are a core part of that;
- Economic development is a focus and one way MNBC can help is by supporting and encouraging Community economic development;
- Section 2.1 could be made more specific by mentioning the vision, mission, and values of MNBC;
- If a Community wants to separate from MNBC, there should be mechanism that confirms Community consent to leave, not just a decision from the Board of Directors.

Conflict Resolution

Other discussion points:

- There is a need to build collective/regional capacity;
- Providing additional administrative support for Regional Directors may be helpful so that they can directly support Communities and identify ways to internally supports Communities;
- There may be a benefit to including Senior Directors (staff) in each Community;
- Need to identify a trigger mechanism for the conflict resolution process;
- In any conflict resolution, it will be necessary to have an impact assessment and deal with the impacts on people and communities, possibly through restorative justice, or healing circles.