

## DRAFT MINUTES

Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2023 Annual General Meeting, held September 22-24, 2023 at the Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, British Columbia (BC).

### OFFICIAL DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:

#### Board of Directors

Lissa Smith, President

Walter Mineault, Vice-President

Shaughn Davoren, Chair, Métis Youth BC

Dr. Kate Elliott, Chair, Métis Women BC

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

Louis De Jaeger, Regional Director, Region 2 (Lower Mainland) and Secretary

Dean Gladue, Regional Director, Region 3 (Thompson Okanagan)

Debra Fisher, Regional Director, Region 4 (Kootenays)

Raynie Gervais, Regional Director, Region 5 (North Central)

Susie Hooper, Regional Director, Region 6 (Northwest)

Paulette Flamond, Regional Director, Region 7 (Northeast)

### ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Pelletier, AGM Co-Chair

Carmen Carrier, AGM Co-Chair

John Bieker, AGM Clerk

Nicole Ludwig, AGM Deputy Clerk

Cal Robinson AGM Deputy Clerk

Colette Trudeau, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Jordan Waunch, Master of Ceremonies (MC)

### MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Diane Parsons, Recording Secretary

## DAY ONE – September 22, 2023

### OPENING CEREMONIES

The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) commenced with the Grand Entry procession, led by musicians and a jigger, Métis Veterans, flag bearers, and other dignitaries. Jordan Waunch, MC, welcomed Delegates to the MNBC AGM. Attendees joined Tricia Tucker in singing “O Canada” and the “Métis Ballad.”

## **GREETINGS AND OPENING REMARKS**

### **Tkwenem7íple7 Nikki Fraser, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc**

Tkwenem7íple7 Fraser welcomed attendees to the territory of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc.

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND OPENING PRAYERS**

Senator Betty Hoogendoorn and Senator Alan Edkins acknowledged the traditional lands on which the AGM was being held and provided Opening Prayers.

## **SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

Senator Gerald Pope administered the "Oath of Office" for Region 1 Senator, Alan Edkins. Senator Hoogendoorn administered the "Oath of Office" for Region 4 Women's Representative, Michele Morin.

## **GREETINGS AND OPENING REMARKS**

### **President Cassidy Caron, Métis National Council (MNC)**

MNC President Caron extended appreciation for the welcoming remarks from Tkwenem7íple7 Fraser and recognized the importance of taking time to celebrate and to re-establish connections. She acknowledged that 2023 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the MNC and credited its success to the active involvement of its Governing Members.

### **President Margaret Froh, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)**

MNO President Froh conveyed gratitude for the opportunity to attend the AGM and to visit BC. She recognized efforts being made across the Métis Nation, the need for sharing stories and achievements, and the successes that were yet to be achieved.

### **Constable Paula Haider, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)**

Constable Haider commented on her work with Indigenous Services Canada in BC as a Community Initiatives Coordinator and reviewed her role to build relationships with communities.

### **Marc Dubord, President, Two Rivers Métis Society**

President Dubord welcomed attendees, noting it was a privilege to host the AGM. He encouraged delegates and the Board of Directors to collaborate, and approach matters with open minds.

### **Lissa Smith, President, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC)**

MNBC President Smith welcomed attendees, and highlighted some of the activities and events outlined in the "MNBC 2023 Annual Report", including:

- Assistance provided to citizens affected by wildfire evacuations in 2023
- Attendance at gatherings including Back to Batoche in Saskatchewan, and the Mid-Island Métis Rendezvous in Duncan
- Rolling out the First Time Homeowners' Program in the fall of 2023
- The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan which included a MNBC-specific measure that mandated Canada to work collaboratively with the MNBC
- Continued efforts towards achieving Indigenous Governing Body status with the federal government
- Developing a 10-year Michif language revitalization plan, through engagement with citizens.

### **President Glen McCallum, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MN-S) (recorded video message)**

MN-S President McCallum extended best wishes on behalf of the MN-S for a successful AGM and acknowledged the MN-S' strong working relationship with the MNBC.

**Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations** *(recorded video message)*

Minister Anandasangaree reflected on the history of the MNBC which had changed the lives of many Métis citizens, and recognized the challenges presented during the 2023 wildfire season. He commended the MNBC for its efforts to support housing and noted that he looked forward to continuing to strengthen the relationship with the MNBC.

**Honourable David Eby, Premier of BC** *(recorded video message)*

Premier Eby thanked President Smith for the invitation to attend the AGM and extended best wishes to the Board of Directors and delegates for a successful meeting, noting that the Métis Nation has a strong partner in the Provincial Government.

**QUORUM CONFIRMED**

John Bieker, AGM Clerk, confirmed that quorum was achieved with 167 official voting delegates attending in person and 24 official voting delegates attending virtually.

**NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF AGM CO-CHAIRS**

The AGM Clerk called for nominations for the Co-Chairs of the 2023 AGM, which prompted the following:

1. Dave Pelletier was nominated as Co-Chair and consented to the nomination;
2. Carmen Carrier was nominated as Co-Chair and consented to the nomination.

The AGM Clerk called for further nominations and after the third call, with there being no further nominations, declared the nominations closed. The AGM Clerk declared that Carmen Carrier and Dave Pelletier had been accepted unanimously as Co-Chairs for the 2023 AGM.

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE 2023 AGM**

**AGENDA VARIED**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The 2023 AGM was called to order on September 22, 2023, at 2:52 p.m.

**Health Break**

The AGM recessed at 2:52 p.m. and reconvened at 3:15 p.m.

**QUORUM CONFIRMED**

The AGM Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

**Point of Information**

In response to a request for a point of information, the AGM Clerk confirmed that notice of Resolutions #1-10 was posted on the MNBC website and sent by email 32 days in advance of the AGM, which satisfied notice requirements.

**2. ADOPTION OF THE 2023 AGM DRAFT AGENDA**

*Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): Draft Agenda for the September 22-24, 2023 Annual General Meeting*

**Main Resolution**

**It was MOVED (Debra Fisher) and SECONDED (Vince van Wieringen)**

That the Agenda for the Métis Nation British Columbia 2023 Annual General Meeting scheduled September 22-24, 2023, be adopted as presented.

**Amendment to the Main Resolution**

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

That the Agenda be amended by including consideration of “Resolution A - C92 Resolution” at the start of the meeting on September 24, 2023.

**CARRIED (AGM2023-01)**

(78 delegates voted in favour, 9 opposed, and 8 abstained)

**Amendment to the Main Resolution**

**It was MOVED (Vince van Wieringen) and SECONDED (Marie Zwingley)**

That the Agenda be amended to reschedule the “Board of Directors Townhall – Q and A Session” from September 24, 2023 at 9:55 a.m. to September 23, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**CARRIED (AGM2023-02)**

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

**Amendment to the Main Resolution**

**It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Linda van Wieringen)**

That the Agenda be amended to consider “Financial Statements Overview” prior to “Review and Adopt 2022 AGM Minutes”.

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (AGM2023-03)**

**Question on the Main Resolution as Amended**

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

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (AGM2023-04)**

**3. ADOPTION OF THE AGM STANDING RULES**

*Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): “Draft AGM Standing Rules”*

**It was MOVED (Brooklyn Chalmers) and SECONDED (Steve Arnette)**

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Annual General Meeting (AGM) adopt the “AGM Standing Rules” as presented for the September 22-24, 2023 AGM.

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (AGM2023-05)**

#### 4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OVERVIEW

*Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): “Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia Financial Statements, for the year ended March 31, 2023”*

Jeffrey Hunt, Manning Elliott Chartered Accountants, reviewed the financial statements provided and confirmed they were fairly presented in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

In response to delegates questions, comments were offered on:

- Further information on joint venture returns, in the “Notes to the Financial Statements”
- Consultation fees included in the “Schedule of Expenses”
- MNBC’s Central Service departments, including Operations, People and Culture, Finance, Intergovernmental Relations, and Communications.

#### **It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Shaughn Davoren)**

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Annual General Meeting accept the “Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia Financial Statements, for the year ended March 31, 2023”, as presented.

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (AGM2023-06)**

#### **It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Betty Ann MacDonnell)**

That the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Annual General Meeting appoints Manning Elliott Chartered Accountants as the Auditors for the MNBC for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (AGM2023-07)**

#### 5. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE 2022 AGM MINUTES

*Related information (distributed in the Agenda package): Draft Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Annual General Meeting held September 23-25, 2022*

#### **It was MOVED (Greg Stanwick) and SECONDED (Jeff Crozier)**

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia 2022 Annual General Meeting held September 23-25, 2022, be adopted as presented.

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (AGM2023-08)**

#### 6. Chief Executive Officer – Presentation

Colette Trudeau, Chief Executive Officer, introduced the MNBC’s senior leadership team. She provided a presentation and highlighted the work of MNBC Ministries and Departments as outlined in the “MNBC 2023 Annual Report”, including:

- Efforts of the Ministry of Children and Family Services, towards seeking MNBC’s designation as a representative for Métis children, youth and families within the child welfare system
- The Ministry of Citizenship’s work towards decreasing timelines for completing MNBC citizenship applications
- A commitment from Canadian Heritage to provide funding over five years to support Michif language revitalization work
- Supports available for Métis families impacted by wildfire evacuations in BC

- Efforts of the Ministry of Mental Health and Harm Reduction and Ministry of Health towards developing “Naomie’s Principle”, a community-driven initiative advocating for and detailing the unequivocal need for Métis-led substance use and recovery services
- The Skills Training, Employment and Post-Secondary (STEPS) Education Program and efforts towards developing a Métis-led post-secondary institute.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT – Recognizing Tracey Thornhill**

Delegates recognized Tracey Thornhill and her dedicated 25-years of service with the MNBC.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

The MNBC AGM scheduled September 22-24, 2023, adjourned on September 22, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. after agreeing to reconvene on September 23, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. with the Board of Directors Townhall “Question and Answer” Session.

### **DAY TWO – September 23, 2023**

#### **MEETING RECONVENED – CALL TO ORDER**

The MNBC AGM scheduled September 22-24, 2023, reconvened on September 23, 2023, at 8:40 a.m.

#### **QUORUM CONFIRMED**

The AGM Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

#### **7. BOARD OF DIRECTORS TOWNHALL – Question and Answer Session**

The AGM Co-Chair reviewed the AGM Standing Rules and welcomed the Board of Directors to respond to delegates’ questions. Their responses are summarized below:

- Nicola Valley suggested a Sunshine Valley site for youth camps and land-based education; however updates were not provided. The Minister of Housing and Homelessness apologized for the oversight and committed to improved communications and further discussions towards a land purchase for gatherings.
- MNBC participates in the Vancouver Pride Parade and has zero tolerance for homophobia and transphobia. The MNBC’s Two-Spirit Committee could be asked to develop educational resources for communities. The Ministry of Youth collaborated with the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity, to create a lapel sash for allies, to emphasize their support.
- In accordance with the Bylaws of the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (Section 3.8), the quorum for the transaction of business at a general meeting is thirty-six (36) of the voting members.
- The MNBC employs Two-Spirit individuals in leadership and other roles, but not based on their Two-Spirit identity. The MNBC prioritizes creating a safe work environment and selects employees to fit their roles. Additionally, MNBC proactively welcomes pronoun preferences.
- A resolution was presented at a recent General Assembly, which addressed challenges faced by Two-Spirit peoples. Some members abstained from voting due to insufficient information, or to provide more time to collaborate on the resolution. Future discussions may still occur.
- In BC, Grade 12 students are required to complete education on anti-Indigenous racism. The MNBC K-12 Manager is collaborating with the BC Teachers Federation to enhance MNBC’s

role in this initiative. If necessary, a complaint can be filed. The MNBC support Elders and knowledge carriers in educating about Métis-specific racism.

- There is a lack of funding for MNBC's Community representatives and women. Funding for a Women's Gathering and core support for the Women's Council has been secured. Discussions with the Provincial Government focus on improving MNBC's funding structure.
- MNBC supports Métis businesses and seeks to ensure an economic strategy aligned with Métis values. Consultations are ongoing, and member input is essential. The Minister of Environmental Protection, Agriculture, and Food Sovereignty, recognizes the importance of sustainability, climate change, and industry participation in discussions.
- MNBC's annual budget and financial statements are posted online. MNBC is transitioning to new financial software for real-time, user-friendly reports. Plans include posting detailed quarterly reports. Details on the current operational budget, can be requested by email.
- MNBC purchased seven properties to help stabilize regions and support communities and may purchase more to help accommodate its Citizens.
- MNBC Board of Directors' salaries increased but are still low compared to other Governing Members. Their raise compensated for underpayment and additional duties and hours. MNBC communities also want to be compensated, which is a key priority in MNBC's Strategic Plan. MNBC distributed COVID-19 funding to its communities.
- The Minister of Post-Secondary Indigenous Studies and the Minister of Employment and Skills Training will convey to MNBC's STEPS program concerns that some Indigenous courses lack Métis information, and should involve Métis curriculum-writers and Elder storytellers.
- Communities are concerned about insufficient capacity funding to support youth involvement and for housing projects The Minister of Housing and Homelessness acknowledged that some housing projects did not proceed.
- Highlights of the MNBC's Strategic Plan will be shared with members. The MNBC has been given a 45-day period to review the Manitoba Metis Federation Treaty and will seek an extension to expand the consultation period, and to enable further review.
- MNBC secured federal funding for self-governance studies and programs. The MNBC plans to meet with the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations in November 2023, and will address Canada's skepticism about MNBC citizens' Section 35 rights.

#### **Health Break**

The AGM recessed 10:25 a.m. and reconvened at 10:48 a.m.

#### **QUORUM CONFIRMED**

The AGM Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved with 187 official voting delegates registered in person and 25 official voting delegates attending virtually.

#### **Meeting Recessed**

The AGM recessed at 10:54 a.m. (due to technical issues) and reconvened at 11:07 a.m.

## 8. LOCATION OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Discussion ensued on considerations related to scheduling the 2024 AGM.

### Main Resolution

**It was MOVED (David Allard) and SECONDED (Jeff Crozier)**

#### BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) be held September 20-22, 2024;
- Subject to public health and/or public safety orders, the MNBC 2024 AGM be held in-person, with an online participation option, in the Lower Mainland;
- If public health or public safety orders do not allow for an in-person AGM on this date, or there are significant restrictions on in-person gatherings, the AGM will be held virtually; and
- A decision to hold the MNBC 2024 AGM virtually must be made by the MNBC Board of Directors 90 days prior to the AGM (June 30, 2024).

### Amendment to the Main Resolution

**It was MOVED (David Allard) and SECONDED (Jeff Crozier)**

That the Main Resolution be amended by changing the dates for the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) to June 7-9, 2024, and the date for the decision to hold the MNBC 2024 AGM virtually, to March 9, 2024.

**DEFEATED**

(21 delegates voted in favour, 117 opposed, and 6 delegates abstained)

### Amendment to the Main Resolution

**It was MOVED (Anya McVane) and SECONDED (Vince van Wieringen)**

That the Main Resolution be amended by striking the words, "Subject to public health and/or public safety orders," in the second bulleted item.

**CARRIED (AGM2023-09)**

(133 delegates voted in favour, 14 opposed, and 3 delegates abstained)

### Discussion Suspended

Consideration of the Resolution on "Location of the 2024 Annual General Meeting" was temporarily suspended to allow for a previously scheduled Signing Ceremony and Health Break.

### SIGNING CEREMONY: Letter of Understanding with Interior Health

Doug Cochrane, Chair, Interior Health Authority (IHA), Addie Pryce, Vice President, Aboriginal Partnerships, IHA, President Lissa Smith, and Minister Louis De Jaeger participated in the signing of a Letter of Understanding between MNBC and the Interior Health Authority.

### Health Break

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



## QUORUM CONFIRMED

The AGM Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

### 8. LOCATION OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (*Continued*)

Discussion resumed on the resolution related to “Location of the 2024 Annual General Meeting”.

#### Amendment to the Main Resolution

#### It was MOVED (Vince van Wieringen) and SECONDED (Lissa Smith)

That the Main Resolution be amended by adding the words, “with an online participation option,” to the second bulleted item, to now read: “The MNBC 2024 AGM be held in-person in the Lower Mainland, with an online participation option”.

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (AGM2023-10)**

#### Question on the Main Resolution

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

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (AGM2023-11)**

The Resolution on “Location of the 2024 Annual General Meeting” as amended now reads:

#### “BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) be held September 20-22, 2024;
- The MNBC 2024 AGM be held in-person in the Lower Mainland, with an online participation option;
- If public health or public safety orders do not allow for an in-person AGM on this date, or there are significant restrictions on in-person gatherings, the AGM will be held virtually; and
- A decision to hold the MNBC 2024 AGM virtually must be made by the MNBC Board of Directors 90 days prior to the AGM (June 30, 2024).”

### 9. RESOLUTION 1 - Evolution and Reorganization of the Ministry of Citizenship

*Related information (displayed and distributed in the Agenda package): “Resolution 1 – Evolution and Reorganization of the Ministry of Citizenship” submitted by the MNGA via MNBC Board of Directors and dated March 5, 2023*

The AGM Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution.

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

#### WHEREAS:

1. The Ministry of Citizenship has undergone, and continues to undergo substantial changes to provide better service to Citizens;
2. Many current practices do not align with the language in the Citizenship Act;
3. Legislative provisions require vigilant review to ensure that they are correctly stated; and,

4. In the event an error or inconsistency is discovered, the error must be rectified as a housekeeping matter;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The following changes to the *Citizenship Act* be made:

- A. Strike definition 2.5, because it is not used in any current MNBC Legislation;
- B. Strike definition 2.9 and insert the following in its place:  
“2.9 “Registry” means the data and systems used by the Ministry of Citizenship to gather and store information about Métis Citizens.”
- C. Strike definition 2.12 and insert the following in its place:  
“2.12 A “Chartered Community” is a Métis Community that has entered into a Community Governance Charter agreement with the MNBC.”
- D. Strike definition 2.21 and insert the following in its place:  
“Registration” means citizenship in the MNBC”  
AND strike all instances of the word “Membership” and insert “Registration” in its place throughout the *Act*
- E. Strike definition 2.23, and replace all instances of “Métis Community” in the *Act* with “Chartered Community”;
- F. Strike the word “Standardized” from definition 2.27, so that the title is “Provincial Citizenship Card”;
- G. Strike definition 2.31, and insert the following in its place:  
“**Citizenship Authority**” (the “Authority”) means the office in the Ministry of Citizenship which processes, assesses, ensures Chartered Community acceptance is approved within the required timeframe, and issues citizenship cards. The Authority consists of:  
- The Executive Director of Citizenship  
- The Director of Citizenship  
- The Citizenship Assessment Manager”
- H. Reorder and renumber all definitions so that they are in alphabetical and numerical order;
- I. Replace all instances of “Community” and “Chartered Métis Community” with “Chartered Community”;
- J. Strike the words “as a Métis Citizen” and the second instance of the words “is proof that the Applicant is of Métis ancestry” in Article 3.1, because these phrases are redundant;
- K. Delete the current Article 4.2 and insert the following in its place:  
“4.2 Upon approval of registration, the Citizenship Authority shall issue a Provincial Citizenship Card recognizing the Applicant as a Métis Citizen”
- L. Replace all instances of “Registrar” with “Citizenship Authority” in the other definitions, and in Articles 3 to 6, 7.10, 7.11, 8, and 10 to 13 inclusively;
- M. Strike the word “sixteen (16)” in Article 4.3 and insert “nineteen (19)” in its place;

- N. Replace all instances of “Registrar” with “Ministry of Citizenship” in Articles 7.1 to 7.9 inclusively, 7.12, 7.13 and 9;
- O. Strike the current Article 7.2 and insert the following in its place:
- “7.2 The Ministry of Citizenship shall collect and maintain the information necessary to determine registration; the information to be collected is listed on the MNBC Citizenship Application Package and updated from time to time”
- P. Insert the word “shall” following the words “Ministry of Citizenship”, and strike the word “Central” before the word “Registry” in Article 7.5 so that it will read:
- “The Ministry of Citizenship shall cause the Registry to be kept safely by administrative, physical and technological safeguards that are reasonable and consistent with this Act;”
- Q. Strike Articles 8.1 to 8.3 and insert the following as a new Article 8.0 in their place:
- “8.0 The MNBC shall establish a Citizenship Authority which shall maintain and provide Provincial Citizenship Application Forms and Provincial Citizenship Cards to Applicants or Chartered Communities when consent to Release of Personal information forms have been signed and submitted by the Applicant.”
- R. In Article 9.1, strike the phrase “retained and/or employed by the MNBC”, so that it will read as follows:
- “9.1 The Ministry of Citizenship shall be required to follow all policies and procedures developed by the MNBC and shall:”
- S. Strike the word “that” in Article 11.4 and insert “than” in its place, so that the first sentence reads:
- “11.4 The parties shall be provided no less than two (2) weeks’ notice of the date on which the appeal will be heard.”
- T. In Article 12.0, replace the first instance of “Registry Office” with “Ministry of Citizenship”, and the second instance with “Citizenship Authority”, so that Article 12.0 will read:
- “12.0 The expenses and costs associated with the maintenance of the Ministry of Citizenship including the remuneration for the office of the Citizenship Authority and the Registry office staff shall be established by the MNBC based on the availability of fiscal resources.”

**CARRIED (AGM2023-12)**

(124 delegates voted in favour, 19 opposed, and 6 delegates abstained)

**10. RESOLUTION 2 - Protecting Métis Citizens and the Citizenship Process**

*Related information (displayed and distributed in the Agenda package): “Resolution 2 – Protecting Métis Citizens and the Citizenship Process” submitted by the MNGA via MNBC Board of Directors and dated March 5, 2023*

The AGM Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution.

**It was MOVED (Susie Hooper) and SECONDED (Shaughn Davoren)**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The *Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia* defines Métis as “a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples, and is accepted by the Métis Nation”;
2. The *Citizenship Act* authorizes the Registrar to determine whether a person is entitled to be registered as a Citizen, and to determine whether a registered Citizen is found to be ineligible during an audit or review; and
3. Challenges to a person’s Métis citizenship by someone other than the Registrar is contrary to the provisions of self-identification essential to citizenship and the role of the Registrar;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- A. Article 11 be struck from the *Citizenship Act*;
- B. Current articles 12 and 13 in the *Citizenship Act* be renumbered accordingly;
- C. In the new 12.4 (previously 13.4) of the *Citizenship Act*, change the words “Article 12.0” to “Article 11.0”; and
- D. Subject to approval of A above, Article 8.1(k) be struck from the *Senate Act*.

**Amendment to the Main Resolution**

**It was MOVED (Jayden Rogers) and SECONDED (Shaughn Davoren)**

That the Main Resolution be amended by correcting the referenced Article in Item D. from “Article 8.1(k)” to “Article 8.0(k).”

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (AGM2023-13)**

**Postponement**

**It was MOVED (Anya McVane) and SECONDED (Marie Zwingley)**

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Annual General Meeting postpone consideration of Resolution 2, indefinitely.

**DEFEATED**

(34 delegates voted in favour, 120 opposed, and 4 delegates abstained)

**Question on the Resolution**

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

**CARRIED (AGM2023-14)**

(126 delegates voted in favour, 28 opposed, and 4 delegates abstained)

Resolution 2 - Protecting Métis Citizens and the Citizenship Process as amended now reads:

**“WHEREAS:**

1. The *Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia* defines Métis as “a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples, and is accepted by the Métis Nation”;

2. The *Citizenship Act* authorizes the Registrar to determine whether a person is entitled to be registered as a Citizen, and to determine whether a registered Citizen is found to be ineligible during an audit or review; and
3. Challenges to a person's Métis citizenship by someone other than the Registrar is contrary to the provisions of self-identification essential to citizenship and the role of the Registrar;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- A. Article 11 be struck from the *Citizenship Act*;
- B. Current articles 12 and 13 in the *Citizenship Act* be renumbered accordingly;
- C. In the new 12.4 (previously 13.4) of the *Citizenship Act*, change the words "Article 12.0" to "Article 11.0"; and
- D. Subject to approval of A above, Article 8.0(k) be struck from the *Senate Act*."

**Health Break**

The AGM recessed at 2:47 p.m. and reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

**QUORUM CONFIRMED**

The AGM Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

**11. RESOLUTION 3 - Increasing Opportunities for Voting**

*Related information (displayed and distributed in the Agenda package): "Resolution 3 – Increasing Opportunities for Voting" submitted by the MNGA via the Electoral Act Committee and dated March 5, 2023*

The AGM Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. During discussion, comments were offered on the oversight responsibilities of the Chief Electoral Officer, and costs associated with mail-in voting and mobile polling station options.

**It was MOVED (Paulette Flamond) and SECONDED (Pixie Wells)**

**WHEREAS:**

1. It is in the interests of the Métis Nation British Columbia and its citizens to have as many people vote as possible in elections;
2. It is often difficult for people to access a ballot box, particularly in large, rural areas of the province;
3. Métis Citizens expressed interest in having more opportunities to cast ballots in elections;
4. Not all Citizens are comfortable casting votes online or are able to vote online;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The *Electoral Act* be amended as follows:

- A. Strike the current Article 5.6 and replace with:

"5.6 The Chief Electoral Officer shall conduct Elections by Mail-in Ballot and by Online Voting.

- (a) An MNBC Chartered Community may, via written request to the Chief Electoral Officer, request a secured ballot box to the Community, for the deposit of mail-in ballots.
  - i. The ballot box will be secured through the requirements provided in Article 18 of this Act, and
    - (a) The person appointed as Returning Officer pursuant to Section 14.1 of the *MNBC Electoral Act* shall be responsible for the security of the above-noted ballot box.
  - ii. The ballot box shall be placed in an accessible location pursuant to the requirements provided in Article 18 of this Act.
  - iii. The Returning Officer shall send, by mail or courier, Mail-in Ballots deposited by Electors in a secured ballot box in a Community to the location and by the date designated by the Chief Electoral Officer.
  - iv. The Chief Electoral Officer shall provide the date that the secured ballot box will be closed, and when the ballots must be sent to the Chief Electoral Officer."

**B.** Insert the following definition as number 3.23:

**"Mobile Polling Station"** means an advance poll consisting of a team of election officials who visit Communities and have two secure ballot boxes: one to collect Mail-in Ballots, and one to collect ballots issued by the team to electors who have not previously received a Mail-in Ballot."

AND renumber the remaining definitions accordingly;

**C.** Insert the following as (a) to Article 15.1:

"(a) Advance polls shall be open for at least four (4) consecutive hours between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the day they are scheduled."

**D.** Strike Article 26 and replace with the following Articles 26.1 to 26.5:

26.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall establish at least one advance poll to accommodate electors. Such a poll may take place at a location of a Community which has requested and received a secure ballot box, or may be a mobile polling station, or both, at the discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer. The dates, times, and locations of advance polls will be scheduled to provide reasonable access to as many electors as possible.

26.2 Advance Poll(s) shall be held on a day or days designated by the Chief Electoral Officer.

(a) The days and times of a Mobile Polling Station in Communities shall be included in the list of polling stations referenced in Section 16.4 of the *MNBC Electoral Act*.

26.3 Any person on the list of electors and in possession of a mail ballot who attends an advance poll may mark their ballot and deposit it at that advance poll, in the ballot box reserved for Mail Ballots.

26.4 Any person who meets the criteria set out in Article 6 of this Act and:

- Has not received a mail-in ballot, and
- Has not voted online, and

- Signs a document witnessed by the Chief Electoral Officer or Returning Officer, attesting that they have not voted before and will not vote again in the current election, online, by mail, or in person;

May receive a ballot from the Chief Electoral Officer or Returning Officer at an advance poll conducted in their Community or Region where they are ordinarily resident and vote in person.

26.5 Any person who has received a mail ballot and has spoiled it:

- i. May exchange the spoiled ballot for a replacement ballot, or
- ii. If not in possession of the spoiled ballot, may receive a replacement ballot after signing a document witnessed by the Chief Electoral Officer or Returning Officer, attesting that they have not voted before and will not vote again in the current election, online, by mail, or in person;

The Chief Electoral Officer or Returning Officer shall ensure a log of replacement ballots is kept.”

**CARRIED (AGM2023-15)**

(126 delegates voted in favour, 13 opposed, and 7 delegates abstained)

## **12. RESOLUTION 4 - Elector Outreach and Education**

*Related information (displayed and distributed in the Agenda package): “Resolution 4 – Elector Outreach and Education” submitted by the MNGA via the Electoral Act Committee and dated June 4, 2023*

The AGM Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. Discussion ensued on time commitments and expectations related to serving in an elected position; and costs related to advertising through newspaper versus email and online options.

**It was MOVED (David Allard) and SECONDED (Linda van Wieringen)**

### **WHEREAS:**

1. Historically, only about 10% of Métis have voted in past elections in British Columbia;
2. For many people, voting can be a confusing and intimidating experience; and
3. Democratic best practices include outreach to electors to inform them of when, where, and how to vote, along with the candidates who are running to represent their interests;

### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The following changes be made to the *Electoral Act*:

**A.** In Article 5.2, strike the word “may” and insert “shall” in its place;

**B.** Add the following to the end of Article 5.2a:

“activities may include, but are not limited to:

- i. Working with MNBC staff to develop and distribute a voter’s guide for electors, that explains in plain language where, when, and how to vote;

- ii. Newspaper advertisements in local papers where there is a Chartered Community (if available and subject to funding);
  - iii. Social media, including the purchase of ads;
  - iv. Direct mail and email notices to electors;
  - v. Arranging for virtual townhall meetings, either individually in each region, or in combination with other regions, for provincial and regional Candidates to respond to questions and comments from electors;
  - vi. Working with MNBC committees and Chartered Communities to provide outreach opportunities in their communities, especially youth outreach;
  - vii. Any other opportunities that may be requested by a Chartered Community or Region, or considered by the Chief Electoral Officer to be appropriate for all or for a specific region or Community.”
- C. Add the following as a new Article 5.2b and renumber existing Article 5.2b as Article 5.2c:  
 “b. The Chief Electoral Officer shall, as much as reasonably possible in as many outreach activities as possible, include information regarding the positions available for election, a description of responsibilities, and time commitments.”
- D. Insert the following in Section 8.1 as a new Part b:  
 “b. The positions available for election, including a description of responsibilities and time commitment.”
- AND renumber the remaining subsections in Section 8.1 accordingly.

**CARRIED (AGM2023-16)**

(128 delegates voted in favour, 9 opposed, and 7 delegates abstained)

**13. RESOLUTION 5 - Electoral Act: Housekeeping Amendments**

*Related information (displayed and distributed in the Agenda package): “Resolution 5 – Electoral Act: Housekeeping Amendments” submitted by the MNGA via the Electoral Act Committee and dated June 4, 2023*

The AGM Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution.

**It was MOVED (Jayden Rogers) and SECONDED (Greta Henning)**

**WHEREAS:**

1. Legislative provisions require vigilant review to ensure that they are correctly stated; and
2. In the event an error or inconsistency is discovered the error must be rectified as a housekeeping matter;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The MNBC *Electoral Act* be amended as follows:

- A. Strike the words “Returning Clerk” in existing Section 14.1f. and insert “Returning Officer” in their place;



- B.** Renumber parts c to f of Article 14.1 so that they are subsections of part b, as follows:
- “b. The following persons shall not be appointed as either a Returning Officer or a Poll Clerk:
- i. A person who is the spouse, child, brother, sister, mother, father, common-law partner, or individual who lives with any Candidate;
  - ii. A member of the Métis Nation British Columbia Senate;
  - iii. An individual who is a Candidate or a Candidate’s representative;
  - iv. A person who is the spouse, child, brother, sister, mother, father, common-law partner, or individual who lives with either a Returning Officer or Poll Clerk, shall not be appointed for the same Polling Station location.”
- C.** In Article 31.2, strike the second instance of the word “in” and insert “is” in its place so that Article 31.2 will read:
- “31.2 An individual other than an Election Officer must not act to assist more than one Elector in an Election to mark a ballot unless the individual is assisting more than one member of their family.”

**CARRIED (AGM2023-17)**

(132 delegates voted in favour, 2 opposed, and 1 delegate abstained)

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

The MNBC AGM scheduled September 22-24, 2023, adjourned on September 23, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. after agreeing to reconvene on September 24, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

### **DAY THREE – September 24, 2023**

#### **MEETING RECONVENED – CALL TO ORDER**

The MNBC AGM scheduled September 22-24, 2023, reconvened on September 24, 2023, at 8:38 a.m.

#### **QUORUM CONFIRMED**

The AGM Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved with 194 official voting delegates attending in person and 19 official voting delegates attending virtually.

#### **14. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS: RESOLUTION A – C92 RESOLUTION**

*Related information: “Resolution A – C92 Resolution” submitted by Debra Fisher to the AGM and dated September 22, 2023*

The AGM Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution and confirmed that at least two-thirds of the eligible voting delegates were required to vote in favour, for the resolution to be duly ratified.

#### **It was MOVED (Sasha Hobbs) and SECONDED (Peter Lang)**

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Annual General Meeting (AGM) directs that if the remaining resolutions included on the distributed AGM agenda, are not considered by 11:00 a.m., “Resolution A – C92 Resolution” be considered at that time as a “Special Order of Business”.

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (AGM2023-18)**

15. **RESOLUTION 6 - Regulatory Authority for Elections**

*Related information (displayed and distributed in the Agenda package): "Resolution 6 – Regulatory Authority for Elections" submitted by the MNGA via the Electoral Act Committee and dated June 4, 2023*

The AGM Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution.

**It was MOVED (Caitlin Bird) and SECONDED (Jeff Crozier)**

**WHEREAS:**

1. After an election is called, there may be an urgent need for additional or amended rules specific to the election;
2. Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Citizens meet once, annually, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and urgent changes to the rules for an election may not be dealt with in a timely fashion; and
3. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) is the legislative body of the MNBC as set out in the Constitution and it is well within the MNGA mandate to provide additional guidance to the MNBC's democratic processes;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- A. The following be added to the *Electoral Act* as Section 45:

**"REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

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

- B. The following be added as Article 4.8 to the *Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act*:

"4.8 The MNGA may, by resolution, make election rules regarding matters not specifically set out in the *Electoral Act*. Such rules will expire 30 days after election day for the election they pertain to."

**Postponement**

**It was MOVED (David Allard) and SECONDED (Vince van Wieringen)**

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Annual General Meeting postpone consideration of "Resolution 6 - Regulatory Authority for Elections", indefinitely.

**DEFEATED**

(32 delegates voted in favour, 84 opposed, and 3 delegates abstained)

**Amendment to the Main Resolution**

**It was MOVED (Louis De Jaeger) and SECONDED (June Graham)**

That the Main Resolution be amended by appending the following to Section B:

"4.8.1 That any elected representative, who is a declared candidate in a current election, who is a member of the MNGA, may not propose such a rule."

**CARRIED (AGM2023-19)**

(87 delegates voted in favour, 26 opposed, and 7 delegates abstained)

### **Question on the Main Resolution as Amended**

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

**CARRIED (AGM2023-20)**

(98 delegates voted in favour, 21 opposed, and 5 delegates abstained)

Resolution 6, as amended, now reads:

#### **WHEREAS:**

1. After an election is called, there may be an urgent need for additional or amended rules specific to the election;
2. Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Citizens meet once, annually, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and urgent changes to the rules for an election may not be dealt with in a timely fashion; and
3. The Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) is the legislative body of the MNBC as set out in the Constitution and it is well within the MNGA mandate to provide additional guidance to the MNBC's democratic processes;

#### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- A. The following be added to the *Electoral Act* as Section 45:

##### **"REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

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

- B. The following be added as Article 4.8 to the *Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act*:

"4.8 The MNGA may, by resolution, make election rules regarding matters not specifically set out in the *Electoral Act*. Such rules will expire 30 days after election day for the election they pertain to."

"4.8.1 That any elected representative, who is a declared candidate in a current election, who is a member of the MNGA, may not propose such a rule."

### **16. RESOLUTION 7 - Extension of Voting Timelines**

*Related information (displayed and distributed in the Agenda package): "Resolution 7 – Extension of Voting Timelines" submitted by the MNGA via the Electoral Act Committee and dated June 4, 2023*

The AGM Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution.

**It was MOVED (Shaughn Davoren) and SECONDED (Jayden Rogers)**

#### **WHEREAS:**

- A. Mail-in ballot voting is one of the options for Métis Citizens to cast their votes and the length of time for receipt and return of mail ballots can be affected by a variety of issues, many of which are beyond the control of MNBC;
- B. Citizens have expressed concerns regarding the tight turnaround time for mail-in ballots to

be received and returned;

- C. It is in MNBC's interest to have as many Citizens vote as possible, and short timelines to return mail-in ballots may deter people from voting; and
- D. Approval of this resolution will give Electors an additional week to return their mail-in ballots;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- A. In Article 8.2, strike the number "40" and insert "45" in its place;
- B. In Article 9.1, strike the word "immediately", and insert "the day after the close of nominations" at the end so that the article will read:
  - "9.1 If only one Candidate is nominated for any one office at the close of nominations the Chief Electoral Officer shall declare that Candidate acclaimed to office the day following the close of nominations."
- C. In Article 11.1, strike the number "seven (7)" and insert "five (5)" in its place.

**CARRIED (AGM2023-21)**

(115 delegates voted in favour, 1 opposed, and 3 delegates abstained)

**Health Break**

The AGM recessed at 9:50 a.m. and reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

**QUORUM CONFIRMED**

The AGM Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved.

**17. RESOLUTION A – C92 Resolution**

*Related information: "Resolution A – C92 Resolution" submitted by Debra Fisher to the AGM Clerk and dated September 22, 2023*

The AGM Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- The federal and provincial governments refusal to recognize MNBC as having the authority to represent Métis children, youth and families within the child welfare system BC
- Keeping the Métis Children and Family Service providers updated regarding the MNBC's authorization to exercise jurisdiction
- Partnership and transparency between the MNBC and BC Children and Family Services.

**It was MOVED (Lauren Peterson) and SECONDED (Vince van Wieringen)**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The Métis Nation is an Indigenous people and one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada within the meaning of Section 35 (2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
2. The Métis Nation within British Columbia (BC) - which is an integral part of the larger Métis Nation - holds inherent rights to self-government and self-determination, as well as those rights as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
3. Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) is mandated to represent the Métis Nation within BC - which includes the Métis Nation's citizens - with respect to their rights, claims, and interests;

4. Through policy development and advocacy, MNBC actively represents our thirty-nine (39) Métis Communities in BC and MNBC citizens. MNBC engages Chartered Communities and citizens to address sensitive and critical matters, including but not limited to the *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act*, social work oversight, review of child protection responses, youth justice, youth transitions, children and youth with support needs, and the complexities associated with each of these issues;
5. MNBC and the Province of BC signed a Joint Commitment to collaboratively work towards MNBC's authority over child welfare for Métis children and families in BC;
6. On June 12, 2019, Canada, represented by the Assistant Deputy Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Métis National Council (MNC) regarding the Canada-Métis Nation Child and Family Services Accord (CFS MOU). The MNBC is a signatory to the CFS MOU, which states promoting Métis jurisdiction over the design and delivery of child and family programs and services as a primary goal;
7. The federal *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* affirms that the "inherent right of self-government recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* includes jurisdiction in relation to child and family services, including legislative authority in relation to those services and authority to administer and enforce laws made under that legislative authority" and recognizes numerous rights, opportunities, and responsibilities of Indigenous governing bodies in the provision of child and family services to their citizens;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- A. MNBC is authorized to exercise the Métis Nation within BC's inherent jurisdiction over child and family services, including through the development of a Métis child welfare law related to child and family services, the negotiation of related interim agreements, and/or any other necessary or related actions required to advance or exercise that jurisdiction.

**Amendment to the Main Resolution**

**It was MOVED (Anya McVean) and SECONDED (Patrick Harriott)**

That the "Be it Resolved" section be amended by replacing "MNBC is authorized to exercise the Métis Nation within BC's inherent jurisdiction" with "MNBC is authorized to exercise the inherent jurisdiction of the Métis Nation within BC".

**WITHDRAWN BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

**Amendment to the Main Resolution**

**It was MOVED (Daylene Thomas) and SECONDED (Patricia Paulson)**

That the Main Resolution be amended by changing the "Be It Resolved" clause to read:

- "A. MNBC declares inherent jurisdiction over child and family services of Métis in BC. MNBC will develop Métis child welfare laws and will provide Métis child and family services including negotiating agreements and any other instrument that recognizes this jurisdiction. This declaration was authorized by the citizens of MNBC."

## **Secondary Amendment**

### **It was MOVED (June Graham) and SECONDED (Fleurette Boorsboom)**

That the Amendment to the Main Motion be amended by revising the first sentence to read “MNBC citizens declare inherent jurisdiction over child and family services of Métis in BC and authorize MNBC to exercise jurisdiction on our behalf”; and striking the last sentence, thereby revising the proposed amendment to the “Be It Resolved” clause to now read:

**“A.** MNBC citizens declare inherent jurisdiction over child and family services of Métis in BC and authorize MNBC to exercise jurisdiction on our behalf. MNBC will develop Métis child welfare laws and will provide Métis child and family services including negotiating agreements and any other instrument that recognizes this jurisdiction”.

**CARRIED (AGM2023-22)**

(125 delegates voted in favour, 11 opposed, and 3 delegates abstained)

## **Amendment to the Main Resolution**

### **It was MOVED (Anya McVean) and SECONDED (Linda van Wieringen)**

That the Main Resolution be amended by changing the “Be It Resolved” clause to read:

**“A.** The Citizens of MNBC declare inherent jurisdiction over child and family services of Métis in BC and authorize MNBC to exercise jurisdiction on our behalf. MNBC will develop Métis child welfare laws and will provide Métis child and family services including negotiating agreements and any other instruments that recognizes this jurisdiction.”

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (AGM2023-23)**

## **Question on the Main Resolution as Amended**

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

**CARRIED (AGM2023-24)**

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

Resolution A - C92 Resolution as amended, now reads:

### **“WHEREAS:**

- 1.** The Métis Nation is an Indigenous people and one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada within the meaning of Section 35 (2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
- 2.** The Métis Nation within British Columbia (BC) - which is an integral part of the larger Métis Nation - holds inherent rights to self-government and self-determination, as well as those rights as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- 3.** Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) is mandated to represent the Métis Nation within BC - which includes the Métis Nation’s citizens - with respect to their rights, claims, and interests;
- 4.** Through policy development and advocacy, MNBC actively represents our thirty-nine (39) Métis Communities in BC and MNBC citizens. MNBC engages Chartered Communities and citizens to address sensitive and critical matters, including but not limited to the *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act*, social work oversight, review of child protection responses, youth justice, youth transitions, children and youth with support needs, and the complexities associated with each of these issues;

5. MNBC and the Province of BC signed a Joint Commitment to collaboratively work towards MNBC's authority over child welfare for Métis children and families in BC;
6. On June 12, 2019, Canada, represented by the Assistant Deputy Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Métis National Council (MNC) regarding the Canada-Métis Nation Child and Family Services Accord (CFS MOU). The MNBC is a signatory to the CFS MOU, which states promoting Métis jurisdiction over the design and delivery of child and family programs and services as a primary goal;
7. The federal *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* affirms that the "inherent right of self-government recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* includes jurisdiction in relation to child and family services, including legislative authority in relation to those services and authority to administer and enforce laws made under that legislative authority" and recognizes numerous rights, opportunities, and responsibilities of Indigenous governing bodies in the provision of child and family services to their citizens;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- A. The Citizens of MNBC declare inherent jurisdiction over child and family services of Métis in BC and authorize MNBC to exercise jurisdiction on our behalf. MNBC will develop Métis child welfare laws and will provide Métis child and family services including negotiating agreements and any other instruments that recognizes this jurisdiction."

**Health Break**

The AGM recessed at 11:50 a.m. after unanimously agreeing to continue with the business of the AGM when the meeting resumed. The AGM reconvened at 12:05 p.m.

**QUORUM CONFIRMED**

The AGM Clerk confirmed that quorum was achieved. Elder Barbara Rhodes provided a Prayer and Blessing.

**18. RESOLUTION 8 - Changes to the *Veterans Act***

*Related information (displayed and distributed in the Agenda package): "Resolution 8 – Changes to the *Veterans Act*" submitted by the MNGA via the Electoral Act Committee and dated March 5, 2023*

The AGM Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution. During discussion, comments were offered on criteria for membership in the Métis Veterans British Columbia (MVBC) and its alignment with Veterans Affairs Canada.

**It was MOVED (Lissa Smith) and SECONDED (Brooklyn Chalmers)**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The Métis Veterans British Columbia (MVBC) Committee has undergone some changes, and the *MVBC Act* needs to be updated to reflect these changes;
2. The relationship of the MVBC to the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), and the qualifications for membership and associate membership in MVBC should be stated clearly and succinctly;

3. The role of the Minister of Veterans to the MVBC needs to be clearly defined and understandable;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The *Veterans Act* be amended as follows:

- A. Remove the second instance of “of” in Section 2.1 so that it shall read: “The purpose of this Act is to define the role and position of the MVBC within the MNBC”;
- B. Strike Section 3.2 and insert the following in its place: “The spouses and children of MVBC Members who wish to join MVBC may apply for associate membership of MVBC and may be accepted as an associate member (the “Associate Member” or “Associate Members” as the case may be) of MVBC. The MVBC Committee will assess and accept or deny applications for Associate Membership”;
- C. Strike Section 3.3 and insert the following in its place: “The MVBC Committee may, at their sole discretion, revoke a person’s associate membership”;
- D. Insert new Section 3.5 as follows: “A Member or Associate Member may resign their membership in MVBC, through a written request submitted to the MVBC Committee”;
- E. Insert the acronym “BC” following the word “Veterans” in the title of Article Four, so that the new title will be: **ARTICLE FOUR – MÉTIS VETERANS BC COMMITTEE**
- F. Strike existing Sections 4.1 to 4.6 and insert the following new Sections 4.1 to 4.12 in their place:
  - “4.1 Métis Veterans BC Committee (the “MVBC Committee”) shall be constituted of a Métis Veteran Chairperson, seven Métis Veteran Representatives (the “Regional Representatives”), a Woman Veteran Representative, and a Service Officer, all being MVBC members.
  - 4.2 The MVBC Membership shall elect from among themselves the Chairperson, Women’s Representative, and Service Officer. The MVBC Regional Representatives shall be appointed in consultation with the appropriate MNBC Regional Governance Council.
  - 4.3 The term of office for all MVBC Committee members shall be no more than four (4) years. Elections and appointments shall be held at a MVBC General Meeting, in the year on which the term for those MVBC Committee members shall expire.
  - 4.4 The MNBC Minister of Veterans will notify the relevant Regional Director no less than ninety (90) days before their MVBC Regional Representative term will expire, and an appointment must be made by the Regional Governance Council, if a suitable candidate can be found.
  - 4.5 No Member may serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms as Chairperson, Women’s Representative, or Service Officer, without the approval of the MNBC Minister of Veterans.
  - 4.6 At least one member of the MVBC Committee shall be a serving or retired member of the RCMP, if a suitable candidate can be found.
  - 4.7 A Treasurer and Membership Clerk will be appointed by the MVBC Committee from the MVBC Committee Regional Representatives, who, together with the Chairperson,



Women's Representative, and Service Officer, shall collectively act and be known as the "Executive Committee".

- 4.8 The MVBC Committee shall be responsible for the following duties and functions on behalf of the Métis Veterans British Columbia:
- a.) Maintenance of policy and procedures relating to the conduct and mandate of the Métis Veterans and Associate Members;
  - b.) Maintenance of a list of all Métis Veterans and Associate Members in British Columbia as defined by article three (3);
  - c.) Prepare an annual report for presentation at the MNBC Annual General Meeting, and other reports as requested by the MNBC Minister of Veterans;
  - d.) Serve as Gabriel Dumont Scouts as may be requested by MNBC from time to time;
  - e.) Co-ordinate and organize flag processions and flag placement as requested or appropriate from time to time; and other duties as required;
  - f.) Advocate to enhance the status of Métis Veterans;
  - g.) Provide service and support to Métis Veterans in British Columbia;
  - h.) Represent themselves as Métis veterans at municipal, provincial, federal, commemorative, or other events.
- 4.9 Subject to available funding, the MVBC Committee shall meet at least twice per year at a location chosen by the MVBC Committee and may be held in conjunction with the MNBC Annual General Meeting or a MNBC Métis Nation Governing Assembly. The MVBC General Meeting will generally be held in conjunction with the MNBC Annual General Meeting.
- 4.10 Meetings of the MVBC Committee shall be called by the Chairperson. In the event that the Chairperson is unwilling or unable to call a meeting, three MVBC Committee members may call a meeting.
- 4.11 No less than seven (7) days' notice of a MVBC Committee meeting will be provided to all MVBC Committee members.
- 4.12 An MVBC Member, while conducting their duties of the MVBC, shall not be subject to any civil action, lawsuit, or prosecution, as a result of anything done or not done in relation to their duties."
- G.** Strike the current title of Article Five of the *Veterans Act* and insert the following in its place:  
**ARTICLE FIVE – MNBC MINISTER OF VETERANS**
- H.** Strike existing Sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the *Veterans Act* and insert the following new Sections 5.1 to 5.3 in their place:
- "5.1 The MNBC Minister of Veterans shall be an MNBC Board Member.
- 5.2 The MNBC Minister of Veterans shall provide Provincial and Federal representation on behalf of the MVBC and will be accountable to the MVBC Committee. In the event the Minister of Veterans is unable to attend, the Minister may request that an alternate MNBC Board Member and the Chairperson of the MVBC attend in their place.

- 5.3 For the purpose of official business, the voice of the MVBC shall be brought to the MNBC, Métis National Council, Federal and Provincial Governments, organizations, and associations through the Minister in consultation with the MVBC Committee.”

**CARRIED (AGM2023-25)**

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

## **MOTION TO CONCLUDE**

**It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Daylene Thomas)**

That the Métis Nation British Columbia 2023 Annual General Meeting scheduled September 22-24, 2023, now conclude.

**DEFEATED**

(31 delegates voted in favour, 65 opposed, and 3 delegates abstained)

## **19. RESOLUTION 9 - Clarification of Voting for MNGA Members**

*Related information (displayed and distributed in the Agenda package): “Resolution 9 – Clarification of Voting for MNGA Members” submitted by the MNGA via MNBC Board of Directors and dated March 5, 2023 and will require a majority vote to adopt.*

The AGM Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution.

**It was MOVED (Shaughn Davoren) and SECONDED (Anya McVane)**

### **WHEREAS:**

1. A principle in any deliberative assembly is that each member is entitled to one vote; and
2. While Community Presidents may also hold a second post as a Regional Representative, there is a mechanism in the *Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) Act* for the Vice-President to attend MNGA meetings if the President is unable to do so;

### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The following changes be made to the *MNGA Act*:

#### **A. Insert the following as Article 3.1.1**

“3.1.1 A person shall hold one member position at MNGA meetings. If the person holds more than one role that is part of the membership of the MNGA as set out in 3.1 above, they must inform the Clerk of the role they will be fulfilling.”

#### **B. Insert the following as Article 4.2.1 a):**

“a) Each member of the MNGA is entitled to one vote per motion at meetings.”

## **Postponement**

**It was MOVED (Marc Dubord) and SECONDED (Caitlin Bird)**

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Annual General Meeting postpone consideration of “Resolution 9 - Clarification of Voting for MNGA Members”, indefinitely.

**DEFEATED**

(6 delegates voted in favour, 89 opposed, and 0 delegates abstained)

### Question on the Main Resolution

The question was called on the Main Resolution and it was

**CARRIED (AGM2023-26)**

(91 delegates voted in favour, 2 opposed, and 0 delegates abstained)

### 20. **RESOLUTION 10 - MNGA Act: Housekeeping Amendments**

*Related information (displayed and distributed in the Agenda package): "Resolution 10 – MNGA Act: Housekeeping Amendments" submitted by the MNGA via MNBC Board of Directors and dated March 5, 2023*

The AGM Clerk read aloud the displayed resolution.

**It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Jeff Crozier)**

#### **WHEREAS:**

1. Legislative provisions require vigilant review to ensure that they are correctly stated; and,
2. In the event an error or inconsistency is discovered the error must be rectified as a housekeeping matter;

#### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The following changes be made to the *Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act*:

- A. In definition 2.17, add an "s" to the word "order" so that the phrase being defined is "Orders of the Day".
- B. Subject to approval of A above, replace all instances of "Order of the day" with "Orders of the Day", so that the phrase matches definition 2.17 throughout the Act;
- C. Strike the word "General" in definition 2.10 and insert "Governing" in its place, so that the phrase being defined is "Governing Assembly";
- D. Strike definition 2.11 and renumber all subsequent definitions accordingly; and
- E. Subject to approval of C, above, strike the word "General" from Article 3.2 and insert the word "Governing" in its place, so that 3.2 will read:

"3.2 In the event a Community President is unable to attend a Governing Assembly, the Community's Vice-president may represent that Community."

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (AGM2023-27)**

#### **CLOSING REMARKS**

President Smith extended appreciation to the Veterans for undertaking the duties of the Dumonts Scouts, the MNC President Caron for attending, staff for their efforts in organizing the AGM, and delegates for their participation. Senator Fern Hinse offered a Closing Prayer.

**MOTION TO CONCLUDE**

**It was MOVED (Patrick Harriott) and SECONDED (Louis de Jaeger)**

That the Métis Nation British Columbia 2023 Annual General Meeting scheduled September 22-24, 2023, now conclude.

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (AGM2023-28)**  
(Time: September 24, 2023 at approximately 1:00 p.m.)

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This is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the MNBC 2023 AGM held September 22-24, 2023 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.

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Co-Chair

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John Bieker, AGM Clerk

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Co-Chair

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