WHEREAS:

A. The Métis Nation British Columbia ("MNBC") is the successor of the Métis Nation’s ancestor’s self-government structures, which have developed for over 200 years from roots in the beginnings of the Métis Nation in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

B. The MNBC Annual General Meeting ("AGM") and the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (the "MNGA") are integral parts of MNBC’s self-government institutions, structures, and processes.

C. MNBC’s citizens are descendants of the following historic Métis communities:
   a. the Métis of the Red River Settlement of Manitoba;
   b. the Métis of Batoche, Île-à-la-Crosse, and the Qa’Appelle Valley of Saskatchewan;
   c. the Métis of Jasper House, Lac Ste. Anne, and Lac La Biche of Alberta; and
   d. the Métis of Moccasin Flat, Fort St. John, the Peace River valley, and other historic places in British Columbia, and what is now Western Canada, prior to Canada’s confederation.

D. For over 200 years, MNBC’s ancestors and the larger Métis community have exercised Métis rights to self-determination and self-government, and they have protected these Métis rights and Métis identity through the Battle of Seven Oaks in 1816, the unveiling of the Métis flag in 1816, the Red River Resistance in 1869, and the Battle of Batoche in 1885.

E. The Métis community in British Columbia has the inherent rights to self-determination and self-government, which include jurisdiction and law-making authority, as recognized, affirmed, and protected by sections 25 and 35, Constitution Act, 1982.


G. MNBC is the recognized Métis government of the Métis community in British Columbia and, in this role, is mandated to represent and advance Métis rights, freedoms, interests, and claims under sections 25 and 35, Constitution Act, 1982, and Métis rights under DRIPA, which are collectively held by the Métis community in British Columbia, including, but not limited to, the right to the Crown’s duty to consult and accommodate, and the rights to self-determination and self-government.

H. Historically, the Governments of Canada and British Columbia have required MNBC to incorporate in order to establish Nation-to-Nation relationships with MNBC as the recognized Métis government, and the mandated representative, of the Métis community in British Columbia.
I. The Government of Canada has developed and adopted the Principles Respecting the Government of Canada’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples as the foundation for its partnership with, and support of, Indigenous peoples in Canada, including commitments to:
   a. Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ("UNDRIP"), which sets out the rights that constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of Indigenous peoples of the world, including in Canada;
   b. Implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s 94 Calls to Action, which address the ongoing impact of residential schools on survivors and their families and which provide a path forward for government and Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in British Columbia to create a joint vision of reconciliation;
   c. Recognize and affirm that section 35, Constitution Act, 1982 contains a full box of Aboriginal rights and holds the promise that Indigenous nations will become partners in Confederation on the basis of a fair and just reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and the Crown; and
   d. Negotiate treaties, agreements, or other constructive arrangements with Indigenous peoples based on the recognition and implementation of their Aboriginal rights, rather than the extinguishment, modification, or surrender of such rights.

J. For greater clarity, UNDRIP expressly provides for the following Indigenous rights, among others:
   a. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social, and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the state;
   b. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions;
   c. Article 33: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. … Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.
   d. Article 34: Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards; and
   e. Article 36: Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders.
BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The MNGA declares that:

A. MNBC is the recognized Métis Government of the Métis community in British Columbia (the “Métis Government”);

B. MNBC’s citizens are individuals of historic Métis Nation ancestry and who are identified and defined as such in the MNBC Constitution and the Citizenship Act, hereby adopted by this Resolution.

C. The following legislative documents are MNBC’s Constitution and legislative acts, and any amendments thereto shall be undertaken in accordance with said legislative documents:
   a. MNBC Constitution;
   b. Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act;
   c. Métis Women of British Columbia Act;
   d. Métis Youth of British Columbia Act;
   e. Electoral Act;
   f. Senate Act;
   g. Natural Resources Act;
   h. Citizenship Act; and
   i. Métis Veterans of British Columbia Act;

D. MNBC’s existing democratic governance system, including the governance procedures under the MNBC Constitution, are governed by the generally-accepted rules of parliamentary procedures and Métis policies, convention, customs, traditions, and laws, including the Métis Laws of the Harvest, as may be changed from time to time, shall serve as the democratic governance system of the Métis Government and shall be paramount to the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia’s corporate by-laws as stated therein;

E. MNBC’s existing self-government institutions and structures, including, but not limited to, the Board of Directors, the MNGA, the Regional Governance Councils, and the General Meeting of citizens, as may be changed from time to time, shall serve as the self-government institutions and structures of the Métis Government;

F. MNBC shall maintain and strengthen its institutions and resolution processes, especially those of MNBC’s Senate, to address disputes relating to the activities of the Métis Government; and

G. MNBC shall maintain and strengthen the its accountability processes to include a code of conduct, code of ethics, and conflict of interest policies as part of the democratic governance system of the Métis Government.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

A. MNBC’s Board of Directors are authorized to enter into negotiations with the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to develop and to sign intergovernmental agreements setting out the fiscal arrangements and other transitional requirements to support the Métis community in British Columbia in exercising its inherent rights, authorities, and jurisdictions, and in maintaining, strengthening, and developing its distinct political, legal, economic, social, and cultural institutions, structures, and process of self-government.

B. The MNGA shall ratify any intergovernmental agreements entered into by MNBC’s Board of Directors and the Government of Canada and/or the Government of British Columbia by a simple majority vote before such agreements are able to come into effect.

C. MNBC prioritise reaching out to the First Nations of British Columbia to seek ways to strengthen relationships and collaborate together.

WHEREAS:

A. Upon the passing of this Resolution, it will proceed to the 2020 MNBC AGM for ratification by MNBC’s citizens, ensuring their support for MNBC to take all necessary actions to protect their inherent rights to self-determination and self-government, and to ensure that the Métis Government is recognized and strengthened for the benefit of future generations.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

A. The MNGA hereby endorses, affirms, and fully supports the MNBC Self-Government Declaration Resolution, as set out in this document, and directs MNBC to take all necessary actions to implement the Declaration.