

Métis Nation Ontario

Advancing Procurement Opportunities For Métis Governments And Métis Businesses

WHEREAS the Métis Nation is an Indigenous people and one of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada within the meaning of s. 35 (2) of the *Constitution Act*, 1982;

AND WHEREAS Canada and the Métis Nation entered into the Canada-Métis Nation Accord on April 13, 2017, which commits the Parties to work on a government-to-government basis to renew the relationship, based on cooperation and respect for Métis rights and to improve the socioeconomic conditions of Métis Nation citizens and their access to social and economic programs and services that address their needs;

AND WHEREAS every Federal Minister, through their Mandate Letters, has been directed to implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and to work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples to advance their rights, including Articles 3, 5, 21 and 36 – all of which speak to self-determination, and the right to improve economic conditions freely in a manner which respects the distinct Metis Nation;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada is implementing a mandatory requirement for federal departments and agencies to ensure a minimum of 5% of the total value of contracts are held by Indigenous businesses;

AND WHEREAS all economic development initiatives impacting the socio-economic future and well-being of Métis people need to be co-developed with the Métis Nation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis National Council call upon the Government of Canada to recognize that only Métis Governments shall certify a business as Métis owned; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Métis National Council calls on the Government of Canada to work with the Métis Nation Technical Committee on Economic Development to initiate the development of a new Métis Procurement Institute (MPI) or Institutes, to increase Métis Governments' and Métis businesses' success in securing procurement opportunities, by providing wrap-around procurement services including education, promotion, and dissemination of lists of Métis businesses certified by Métis Governments to the Government of Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNC calls upon the Government of Canada to provide the necessary start-up capital and on-going financial support for both: Métis Governments to establish and operate certification processes and registries of Métis businesses; and Métis-led Métis Procurement Institute(s) for the benefit of Métis Governments and Métis businesses.

MOVED

Councillor Mitch Case

SECONDED

Minister Lisa McCallum

Métis Nation of Ontario

Call for the Advancement of Bill C-53 through the Legislative Process

WHEREAS Canada's historic relationship with the Métis Nation has been steeped in colonialism and successive governments have failed to acknowledge and respect the inherent rights of the Métis Nation, including its rights of self-determination and self-government;

AND WHEREAS since 1982 the Métis National Council ("MNC")—as mandated by its Governing Members—has been the Métis Nation's national voice on issues of collective importance to the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS over the last twenty years in a series of cases including *R v. Powley, Alberta v. Cunningham, Manitoba Métis Federation Inc v. Canada, and Daniels v Canada*, the Supreme Court of Canada has provided direction to the Crown to advance reconciliation with the Métis Nation through determining, recognizing, and respecting the rights of the Métis;

AND WHEREAS since 2015 Canada has begun to work with the Métis Nation to advance reconciliation and renew the relationship on a nation-to-nation basis founded on cooperation, respect for rights, Canada's international obligations, and a commitment to end the status quo;

AND WHEREAS in 2017 the MNC and Canada signed the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* which recognized the "Métis Nation continues to exist as a distinct Aboriginal people today and seeks to advance and exercise its right to self-determination including self-government within Canada.";

AND WHEREAS the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord's* stated objectives include:

1.1.2. Renew the Métis Nation-Crown relationship on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis" and to "end the legacy of colonialism and colonial attitudes wherever they may remain in federal legislation, policies and practices;

1.1.3. Advance reconciliation of the rights, claims, interests and aspirations of the Métis Nation and those of all Canadians;

AND WHEREAS in response to this history and context, as part of its efforts to advance reconciliation with the Métis Nation, Canada has engaged in negotiations with Métis Governments, including the Métis Nation of Alberta ("MNA"), the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan ("MNS"), and the Métis Nation of Ontario ("MNO") in respect of self-determination and self-government within their respective jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS in 2019 respective negotiations between the MNA, MN-S, and MNO and the Government of Canada culminated in the signing of Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreements, which recognized that the Métis collectivities who have mandated the MNA, MN-S, and MNO as their representative governments hold the inherent right to self-government, and promised that the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations (the

“Minister”) would recommend to Parliament that federal recognition legislation be introduced to give legal effect to these self-government agreements;

AND WHEREAS in 2021 the Parliament of Canada enacted the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (the “UNDRIP Act”) that provides a framework for reconciliation and cooperative relationships between Canada and Indigenous peoples—including the Métis Nation—and which explicitly acknowledges that:

The Government of Canada is committed to taking effective measures — including legislative, policy and administrative measures — at the national and international level, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to achieve the objectives of the Declaration;

The Government of Canada recognizes that all relations with Indigenous peoples must be based on the recognition and implementation of the inherent right to self-determination, including the right of self-government;

There is an urgent need to respect and promote the rights of Indigenous peoples affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, and those treaties, agreements and arrangements can contribute to the implementation of the Declaration;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the *UNDRIP Act*, Canada released its *UNDRIP Act Plan* in 2023, under which the Métis Priorities chapter explicitly states “Consistent with the commitment to co-develop approaches for the implementation of the right to self-determination, Canada will introduce federal legislation to implement the co-developed Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreements with the Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Nation of Ontario and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.”;

AND WHEREAS in February 2023, building upon the 2019 self-government agreements, the MNA, MN-S, and MNO signed Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreements, in which Canada formally recognized the MNA, MN-S, and MNO as the Métis Governments of their respective Métis citizens who possess an inherent right to self-government, and recognizes that each of these Métis Governments has jurisdiction in the areas of citizenship, leadership selection, internal administration, and child and family services.

AND WHEREAS on June 21, 2023, the Minister introduced Bill C-53, *Act respecting the recognition of certain Métis governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, to give effect to treaties with those governments and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, in the House of Commons, which affirms the 2019 and 2023 Métis self-government agreements, and recognizes Métis self-determination over internal matters of Métis governance, such as Métis citizenship, Métis elections, Métis government structures, and Métis child and family services;

AND WHEREAS Bill C-53 was codeveloped with the MNA, MN-S, and MNO, and has the full support of these Métis Governments and the MNC;

AND WHEREAS Bill C-53 is only about the MNA, MN-S, and MNO’s internal governance, recognizing their authority with respect to Métis citizenship, Métis elections, Métis

government operations, and Métis child and family services—none of which adversely impacts the Aboriginal or Treaty rights of First Nations or other Métis governments;

AND WHEREAS the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (“INAN”) began its study on Bill C-53 on October 26, 2023, and has since conducted a robust study of Bill C-53 which has included testimony from forty-five witnesses and all parties having the opportunity to offer informed amendments;

AND WHEREAS the ten similar pieces self-government implementation legislation concerning other Indigenous peoples that have been enacted by Parliament in the last fifteen years have all received unanimous consent and achieved Royal Assent following just one committee meeting in the House and/or Senate;

AND WHEREAS the number of INAN Committee meetings, the number of witnesses, and length of INAN’s study of Bill C-53 is unprecedented and sets a new, negative standard for all future Indigenous self-government legislation to be subjected to;

AND WHEREAS the legislative process being dragged out has resulted in the amplification of toxic falsehoods, misinformation, and painful lateral violence that has negatively impacted Métis youth and elders;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT as Bill C-53, which is only about the MNA, MN-S and MNO’s internal governance and does not adversely impact the Aboriginal or Treaty rights of First Nations or other Métis governments and has already undergone the longest and most extensive House of Commons Committee study of any piece of Indigenous self-government legislation in history, the MNC calls upon all federal parliamentarians and political parties to:

1. Work collaboratively to advance the passage of Bill C-53 in a timely manner and without further delay;
2. Extend the Métis Nation the same respect they have shown every other Indigenous nation who has been recognized with self-government legislation by providing the same all-party cooperation and support for Bill C-53 in the House of Commons and the Senate;
3. Recognize and respect that Bill C-53 is a part of the Métis Nation’s chosen route to implementing our inherent rights self-determination and self-government, and therefore furthers the implementation of *UNDRIP* within Canada as contemplated by the *UNDRIP* Act.

MOVED

President Froh

SECONDED

Vice President Michelle LeClair

MNC Annual General Assembly 2023 Resolution

Child and Family Services

WHEREAS a distinct Indigenous people—the Métis Nation—emerged with its own collective identity, language, culture, values, way of life and self-government in the historic Northwest prior to Canada’s westward expansion following Confederation, and is represented today by the Métis National Council and its Governing Members which are inclusive of knowledge keepers, Elders and Youth;

AND WHEREAS the Métis National Council's Department of Child and Family Services was involved in the development of this resolution as a part of the Métis National Council's collaborative approach to policy development, and the Department will be involved in its implementation once adopted;

AND WHEREAS it is well-known that current child and family services (CFS) systems across Canada fall short of ensuring the health, wellbeing, and betterment of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and youth, as evidenced by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action one through five;

AND WHEREAS the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) provides a framework for the improvement of child welfare law, policy, and practices, as well as measures to ensure equal access to health, social conditions and special needs of children and youth, which Canada is bound to through the enactment of *the 2021 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;

AND WHEREAS *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the Act) identifies substantive equality as one of three national principles to guide the future provision of CFS to Indigenous children and youth in Canada;

AND WHEREAS Canada has made several First Nations and Inuit specific CFS reform commitments through Jordan’s Principle and the Inuit Child First Initiative, both grounded in the concept of substantive equality, but has yet to adopt a distinctions-based approach to meet the comparable needs of Métis children, youth and families;

AND WHEREAS the Métis National Council (MNC) and its Governing Members are diligently exploring opportunities for culturally appropriate reform of current CFS systems to keep Métis children and youth safe, healthy, and thriving with their families, community, and culture;

AND WHEREAS the MNC recognizes that the Governing Members are engaged in or may be pursuing separate bilateral processes with the Crown regarding CFS related issues and jurisdiction, and that the MNC desires to support—not duplicate or undermine—work being undertaken by the Governing Members, by focusing on common issues and synergies that can be advanced at the national level;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNC call on Canada to recognize the MNC Governing Members as Indigenous Governing Bodies for the purposes of Bill C-92 respecting First Nations, Metis and Inuit children and families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the General Assembly direct the Métis National Council to:

- 1. Support Governing Members in the exploration of the establishment of a dedicated Métis-specific, child-first initiative with Canada that will allow Métis children, youth, and families to achieve better health outcomes and family cohesion through preventive, supportive, and timely measures that facilitate access to essential health, social, and education products, services, and supports, including through a potential CFS sub-agreement under the Métis Nation Accord; and**
- 2. Ensure that any CFS related work completed at the national level supports and supplements, rather than duplicates or undermines, any bilateral work undertaken between a Governing Member and the Crown including the provision of related capacity funding for such work.**

MOVED

President Margaret Froh

SECONDED

Minister Debra Fisher

MNC Annual General Assembly 2023 Resolution

Create a Policy Area-Specific Leaders' Committees Framework

WHEREAS the four Métis Governments that comprise the Métis National Council represent the rights and interests of Métis citizens within their respective provincial jurisdictions, and advocate for their self-determined policy priorities;

AND WHEREAS many of the Métis Governments appoint elected representatives to lead the advancement of important policy portfolios or ministries within their respective jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS the Métis National Council (MNC) exists to advance the shared priorities of its Governing Member Métis Governments;

AND WHEREAS the MNC's policy direction is set by the Métis National Council General Assembly and implemented via the interim decision-making authority of the MNC's Board of Governors;

AND WHEREAS Technical Committees comprised of appointed Governing Member and MNC staff are tasked with advancing policy directives under the Board of Governor's oversight;

AND WHEREAS Technical Committees' work can be further enriched by the citizen-informed insights and contributions of Governing Members' elected portfolio leads within their respective policy areas;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Métis National Council General Assembly direct the Board of Governors to establish a policy area-specific Leaders' Committee framework that provides greater ability for Governing Members' elected portfolio leads to provide ongoing insights into national-level policy and advocacy efforts;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the general assembly direct the Board of Governors to ensure youth voices in all priority area-specific leaders committee by having a youth representative, as selected by the national Metis youth council.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attached draft Terms of Reference be supported to guide their initial implementation.

MOVED

Vice President Walter Mineault
SECONDED

Minister Louis De Jaeger

MNC Annual General Assembly 2023 Resolution

Environment and Climate Change (Emergency Management)

WHEREAS a distinct Indigenous people—the Métis Nation—emerged with its own collective identity, language, culture, values, way of life and self-government in the historic Northwest prior to Canada’s westward expansion following Confederation, and is represented today by the Métis National Council and its Governing Members which are inclusive of knowledge keepers, Elders and Youth;

AND WHEREAS the Métis National Council's Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management was involved in the development of this resolution as a part of the Métis National Council’s collaborative approach to policy development, and the Department will be involved in its implementation once adopted;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation is represented at the national level by the Métis National Council (MNC) which receives its mandate and direction from MNC Governing Members, the democratically elected governments of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario, and British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation, the MNC, and MNC Governing members continue to be marginalized from Emergency Management decision-making processes that impact the rights, well-being, and prosperity of Métis people;

AND WHEREAS climate change has directly led to a drastic increase in the frequency and severity of emergencies, which disproportionately affect Métis communities who are denied funding from the Government of Canada for emergency preparedness and response;

AND WHEREAS the Crown-Métis Nation Summit held on June 1, 2023 in Ottawa, Ontario reached Consensus Decision CD-CMNS-230601-06 which states “the Crown-Métis Nation Summit agreed to add Emergency Management, Preparedness and Response to the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism Standing Agenda and to explore the establishment of an Emergency Management, Preparedness and Response Sub Accord”;

AND WHEREAS self-determination, self-government, and recognition of treaties, committed to by Canada through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Articles 3, 4 and 37, were identified as the top Métis priorities in Canada’s United Nations Declaration Act Action Plan (the Action Plan);

AND WHEREAS the Action Plan commits that “Canada will recognize, support and advance the exercise of Métis rights to self-determination, and the inherent right to self-government, recognized and affirmed by section 35 and protected by section 25 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, in a manner that is consistent with the UN Declaration through constructive, forward-looking, and reconciliation-based approaches and negotiations premised on rights recognition and implementation;”

AND WHEREAS self-determination is intimately connected to participation in decision-making processes, as articulated in UNDRIP Articles 5, 18, 19, and 34;

AND WHEREAS the Métis National Council continue to urge Canada to finalize the work with the Métis Nation to codify the Canada-Métis Nation Principles of Co-Development in order that meaningful, distinctions based co-development work can proceed on Government of Canada policy guidelines on fully and effectively engaging the Métis Nation on issues affecting them;

AND WHEREAS the MNC and Canada have expressed a mutual desire to work together in a manner that fulfills Canada's obligations and upholds the right to self-determination of the Métis Nation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNC will continue to work with the Government of Canada and MNC Governing Members, through appropriate mechanisms such as the PBM, to:

- 1. Advocate for MNC Governing Members needs, priorities, interests, and concerns on Emergency Management; and**
- 2. Secure long-term, predictable, and sustainable funding and capacity for the MNC Governing Members to engage in and deliver distinctions-based services to their citizens and communities in Emergency Management; and**
- 3. Establish a common understanding of the Métis Nation's needs, priorities, interests, and concerns on Emergency Management, as it pertains to both areas of federal and provincial jurisdiction, including exploring the development of a Métis National Emergency Management Strategy and identifying areas for cross-jurisdictional collaboration.**

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The MNC General Assembly directs the MNC to create a committee on emergency preparedness and through terms of reference approved by the MNC Board of Governors;
- B. The composition of this committee will be as follows:
 - a) One political (elected official) appointee from each Governing Member
 - b) One non-political (staff) appointee from each Governing Member
 - c) One non-political (staff) appointee from the Métis National Council, who will serve as the main point of contact for Committee functions; and
 - d) One member from the National Métis Youth Council
- C. Each Governing Member will select their appointees in whichever manner they choose and will inform the MNC by March 31st, 2024.

MOVED

President Glen McCallum

SECONDED

President Andrea Sandmaier

MNC Annual General Assembly 2024 Resolution

International

WHEREAS a distinct Indigenous people—the Métis Nation—emerged with its own collective identity, language, culture, values, way of life and self-government in the historic Northwest prior to Canada’s westward expansion following Confederation, and is represented today by the Métis National Council and its Governing Members which are inclusive of knowledge keepers, Elders and Youth;

AND WHEREAS the Métis National Council's Department of Intergovernmental and International Relations was involved in the development of this resolution as a part of the Métis National Council’s collaborative approach to policy development, and the Department will be involved in its implementation once adopted;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation is represented at the international level by the Métis National Council (MNC) which receives its mandate and direction from MNC Governing Members, the democratically elected governments of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario, and British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation has been historically, and continues to be marginalized and excluded from international decision-making processes that have clear impacts on the rights and prosperity of Métis Governments and citizens;

AND WHEREAS the 2017 Canada-Métis Nation Accord identified “International” as an area of future priority, and continues to be discussed in the context of the Canada-Métis Nation Permanent Bilateral Mechanism;

AND WHEREAS Articles 3, 4, and 37 of the UNDRIP affirm the Indigenous right to self-determination, which is intimately connected to participation in decision-making processes, as articulated in UNDRIP Articles 5, 18, 19, and 34, both domestically and internationally;

AND WHEREAS the United Nations Resolution *A/RES/71/321* titled “Enhancing the Participation of Indigenous Peoples’ Representatives and Institutions in Meetings of Relevant United Nations Bodies on Issues Affecting Them,” was adopted in the General Assembly on September 8, 2017;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation Council continues to urge Canada to finalize the work with the Métis Nation to codify the Canada-Métis Nation Principles of Co-Development in order that meaningful, distinctions-based co-development work can proceed on Government of Canada policy guidelines on fully and effectively engaging the Métis Nation on international issues affecting them;

AND WHEREAS the United Nations Declaration Act Action Plan Measure 72 commits Canada to “Co-develop with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis rights holders or their national designates distinctions-based, whole of government policy guidelines on fully and effectively

engaging Indigenous peoples on international issues affecting them, with a commitment to explore the development of policy in specific areas where appropriate.”;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis National Council' will continue to work with Governing Members to ensure that the rights, prosperity, and well-being of Métis citizens are being protected and promoted internationally, and to seek to develop shared understanding with Canada of how the Métis Nation wishes to engage internationally and secure predictable, long-term, and sustainable funding to support that engagement.

MOVED

Chair Hank Rowlinson

SECONDED

Vice Chair Sharon Cadeau

Métis Nation — Saskatchewan

Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak

WHEREAS the Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (“The LFMO”) bylaws identify the following as purposes:

- a. The LFMO is enabled by motion of the Métis National Council Board of Governors and formed to enable Métis Women within the Métis Nation to take an active role within Métis Nation governance, in addition to their right to participate fully in all elected offices in such governance.
- b. The LFMO shall work within the Métis Nation governance structure, specifically with the Métis National Council and the Governing Members, to represent the interests of and promote leadership by Métis women at the local, provincial, national, and international levels.
- c. The LFMO shall work with Métis Women from across Canada and Métis Nation Government for the empowerment and participation of Métis Women.
- d. The LFMO shall function as an advocacy body to speak and represent the Métis Women’s agenda and perspective nationally.

WHEREAS as a result of the tremendous advocacy by the LFMO, women are more than equally represented within leadership of the Metis National Council and leadership of the Governing Members.

WHEREAS in July 2021, The LFMO released the report, Weaving Miskotahâ: The Metis Nation’s Journey to Ending Missing and Murdered Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+, along with 62 Metis-specific Calls to Miskotahâ.

WHEREAS membership in The LFMO shall be the Métis Women Provincial Organizations of each of the Governing Members, as provided for in the Constitutions and/or Bylaws and/or governance mechanisms of each of the Governing Members.

WHEREAS the LFMO Board of Directors shall consist of six (6) Directors, which shall be comprised of the National President and the five (5) Provincial Spokespersons.

WHEREAS the Metis National Council Board of Governors consists of the Presidents, or designated representative, of each member association and the President of the Métis National Council.

WHEREAS The LFMO is not included in the Metis National Council Board of Governors.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. ***That the Board of Governors (BOG) establish a committee by January 31st, 2024*** to review the purposes of the LFMO and make recommendations to the BOG including such things as advocacy for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People, informed by the Weaving Miskotahâ report and 62 Calls to Miskotahâ.
2. All program-based funding should be operationalized ***immediately*** the Governing Members of the Metis National Council.
3. ***The*** LFMO ensure ***that by January 31, 2024*** they are working with the designated representatives from each governing member as contemplated in their bylaws.
4. ***That within 6 months, the committee provide a progress report of the recommendations to the BOG.***

MOVED

Minister Lisa McCallum

SECONDED

Minister Marg Friesen

Métis Nation — Saskatchewan

National Definition Resolution

WHEREAS in 2002, the Métis National Council (“MNC”) General Assembly unanimously adopted a definition for citizenship within the Métis Nation (the “National Definition”), which defines Métis as “a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry and who is accepted by the Métis Nation.”;

WHEREAS: in recent years, the General Assembly has passed resolutions further clarifying the National Definition, including the geographic scope of the Métis Homeland (the “Homeland”);

WHEREAS: the MN-S respects and champions the National Definition as reflected in its Constitution and Citizenship Act as foundational to protecting the integrity of the Métis Nation;

WHEREAS: in 2021 and 2022, the MN-S supported resolutions that were adopted by the MNC General Assembly mandating the creation of an Expert Panel to review the history of the seven Ontario communities through the lens of the National Definition and contemporary Métis governance;

WHEREAS: the Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreements signed by MN-S, MNA and MNO in 2023 state “The Métis Government has Jurisdiction and Authority in relation to Métis Government citizenship, including citizenship criteria, registration, and appeal or review of decisions about the determination of Métis Government citizenship.”;

WHEREAS: under the current path to self-government, each Métis government can determine its citizenship;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- 1. The General Assembly calls on all MNC Governing Members to reaffirm the National Definition and their commitment to following it, including, respecting that only the Métis Nation can determine the geographic extent of the Homeland and what Métis communities are a part of the historic and contemporary Métis Nation;**
- 2. The General Assembly directs the MNC to accelerate the work of the Expert Panel and confirms that until such time as the Expert Panel completes its work and an open, democratic and deliberative process through the General Assembly has taken place to determine next steps, the previous resolutions of the General Assembly continue to apply, which only recognized the Métis community within northwestern Ontario as being within the Homeland at this time;**
- 3. The General Assembly reaffirms that the Expert Panel is the Métis Nation’s way to deal with these issues and that Crown governments, Indigenous peoples and third parties should respect this Métis-created process.**

MOVED

Minister Lisa McCallum

SECONDED

Vice President Michelle LeClair

MNC Annual General Assembly 2023 Resolution

Permanent Bilateral Mechanism

WHEREAS a distinct Indigenous people—the Métis Nation—emerged with its own collective identity, language, culture, values, way of life and self-government in the historic Northwest prior to Canada’s westward expansion following Confederation, and is represented today by the Métis National Council and its Governing Members which are inclusive of knowledge keepers, Elders and Youth;

AND WHEREAS the Métis National Council's Department of Intergovernmental and International Relations was involved in the development of this resolution as a part of the Métis National Council's collaborative approach to policy development, and the Department will be involved in its implementation once adopted;

AND WHEREAS the Métis National Council’s participation in the 1992 Charlottetown Accord constitutional negotiations resulted in consensus on a proposed “legally-binding, justiciable, and enforceable accord on Métis Nation issues”¹;

AND WHEREAS *Daniels v. Canada* (2016) recognizes the Métis as “Indians” under Section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, further affirming the Government of Canada’s fiduciary relationship with the Métis;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation and Canada signed the Canada-Métis Nation Accord (the Accord) on April 13, 2017, which commits Canada to “Renew the Métis Nation-Crown relationship on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis” and binds Canada to uphold the constitutional relationship that the Métis Nation holds with the Crown as partners in Confederation and as rights-holders as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

AND WHEREAS as a constitutional principle, the Honour of the Crown must guide the Government of Canada in all its dealings with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis;

AND WHEREAS the Accord commits Canada to advance reconciliation with the Métis Nation and end “the legacy of colonialism and colonial attitudes whenever they may remain in federal legislation, policies and practices”;

AND WHEREAS the Accord calls for the establishment of a permanent bilateral mechanism (PBM) and for the establishment of joint policy priorities under the PBM process, which commits Canada to provide the Métis Nation reasonable capacity to participate in the processes contemplated under the Accord;

AND WHEREAS as part of the PBM process Canada has committed to address pressing socio-economic issues important to the Métis Nation, but has not followed through with funding to advance joint policy commitments and has not established the required program

¹Canada. Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. *Volume 4: Perspectives and Realities*, pg. 215. Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996.

and policy authorities, financial instruments, and funding allocations to advance the work agreed upon under the jointly established priorities;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada as represented by the Prime Minister, the Métis National Council, and Governing Members endorsed the “Canada-Métis Nation Permanent Bilateral Mechanism Terms of Reference” at the June 1st, 2023 Crown-Métis Nation Summit which commits the Parties to convene three (3) meetings annually;

AND WHEREAS contrary to the Terms of Reference, the Government of Canada unilaterally cancelled the November 9th, 2023 PBM Leaders Meeting with neither written notice nor satisfactory rationale;

AND WHEREAS despite repeated commitments made by Canada to enter into funded sub-accords on identified priority policy areas, the Parties have not reached such agreements since 2019, due to the inability and unwillingness of the Government of Canada to meaningfully make progress on joint priorities identified in the PBM, and to the detriment of the Métis Nation, Métis Governments, and Métis citizens across the Homeland;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has not provided meaningful funding for Métis Nation PBM priorities in recent years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis National Council take any action necessary, including working with opposition parties and media, to hold the Government of Canada accountable to the Accord and to making the Accord implementable through full funding, the full participation of relevant departments and ministers, and a guaranteed meeting schedule set at the start of each calendar year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Métis National Council seek a commitment from the Government of Canada to institutionalize the 2017 Canada-Métis Nation Accord and Permanent Bilateral Mechanism through legislation as a means to honour the Crown’s commitments to the Métis Nation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Métis National Council call for an urgent meeting between the President of the MNC and the Prime Minister to reset and restore the PBM on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis.

MOVED

Vice President Walter Mineault

SECONDED

President Margaret Froh