



MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY
held January 24 and 25, 2009
DRAFT MINUTES

Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly held January 24 and 25, 2009 in the Sea Island Ballroom at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel, 3500 Cessna Drive, Richmond, BC.

OFFICIAL DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Bruce Dumont, President
Dave Hodgson, Vice-President
Stephanie Albiston, Provincial Youth Chairperson
Rose Bortolon, Métis Women of British Columbia Chairperson
Henry Hall, Lower Mainland Regional Director
Annette Maurice, North Central Regional Director
Dan Pope, Northeast Regional Director
Lissa Smith, Vancouver Island Region Director
Rene Therrien, Northwest Regional Director
Bob Trumbley, Thompson/Okanagan Regional Director

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Vancouver Island Region

Bill Bresser, MNGV
Judy Black, ACMA
Michael Dumont, NIMA
Lorne LaFleur, CVMA
Dan McDonald, MIMN
Bryce Mercredi, MMA

Lower Mainland Region

Ken Einfeld, CMA
Ken Fisher, NMHA
Leonard Laboucan, VMCS
Allan Lavallee, WMS
Barry Mooney, NFMA

Thompson Okanagan Region

Leo Brazeau, KMA
Eldon Clairmont, SAMA
William Gagne, VDMA
Dan Pitman, MHCC
Danny Williamson, BLMA

Kootenay Region

Terry Anonson, East Local
Janet Matishak, Central Local
Claudia Mitchell, MNCRS
Marilyn Taylor, South Local
Donna Wright, West Local

North Central Region

Tony Goulet, NCMA
Allan Howell, NCMA
Alex Norquay, CCMA
Tom Spence, PGMCA

Northwest Region

Kim Hodgson, TRMA
April McLean-Collart, NMA
Sid Peltier, NBCMA

Northeast Region

Arlene Lylvk, FSJMS
Gary Martin, RRMS
Sharon Payou, NEMA

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OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Don Caverley, Speaker
Joseph Gereluk, Corporate Legal Counsel
Malonie Langthorne, Acting MNBC Executive
Director and Clerk

Mark Stevenson, Deputy Speaker
Dean Trumbley, Deputy Clerk

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Carrie Peacock, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

DAY 1 – JANUARY 24, 2009

OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER

Malonie Langthorne, Acting Executive Director and Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) Clerk, called the MNGA to order at 8:45 a.m. and appointed Dean Trumbley as Deputy Clerk.

Senators Gladue and Thibealt offered an Opening Prayer, alternating between the English and Cree languages. Beverley Lambert accompanied by a fiddler performed a traditional dance to “Little Bridges”.

1. WELCOMING COMMENTS OF MNBC PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Dave Hodgson, Vice-President, Métis Nation British Columbia

Vice-President Hodgson acknowledged veterans, elders, women, children, youth, Presidents, and Council members present, noting that it was his privilege to serve as the Vice-President of the Métis Nation British Columbia. He added that staff had set an example across the country in their representation of Métis people. Thanks were also extended to President Dumont for the opportunity to work with him.

Bruce Dumont, President, Métis Nation British Columbia

President Dumont welcomed attendees and acknowledged his privilege in representing members of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC). He acknowledged the flag entry, Elders, Senators, community leaders, youth, women and leaders present. He recognized the Coast Salish territory in which the meeting was gathered in. It was noted that the Métis Nation British Columbia was the only Aboriginal group with an MOU established with the Four Host First Nations (Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Watuth and Lillooet) of the 2010 Olympics.

Comments were offered regarding his involvement in recent discussions with the MNC regarding the economic stimulus. He added that 2009 looked promising and successful for the Métis Nation British Columbia. Efforts were continuing towards the hiring of a new Executive Director.

He noted that the MNBC had a lot to do during the coming year. Gratitude was extended to volunteers at the community level, and for their continued support. He acknowledged Dean Trumbley’s successful negotiations with provincial and federal governments on behalf of the MNBC.

Commendations were extended to the MNBC staff, who continued to work hard to better the organization.

A number of milestones achieved during the past year were referenced. Recent and new opportunities were discussed, including the National President’s meeting with Prime Minister Harper. Funding sought from government for education, skills training, and venture capital was referenced.

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It was noted that children, youth, and communities with Métis history would all be involved in the 2010 Olympic Games. He added that Métis children would soon have greater access to culturally relevant learning tools. The Métis Skills and Employment Centre in Abbotsford would likely soon be expanded. A Métis harvesting rights victory achieved on January 8, 2009 was referenced. The importance of protecting the organization's many achievements was discussed.

President Dumont concluded by recognizing MNBC staff members for their assistance in coordinating and organizing the Assembly.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF THE SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER**

It was MOVED (Ken Fisher) and SECONDED (Lorne LaFleur)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) appoint Don Caverley to serve as the MNGA Speaker for a two-year term.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-01)

It was MOVED (Annette Maurice) and SECONDED (Leonard Laboucan)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) appoint Mark Stevenson to serve as the MNGA Deputy Speaker for a two-year term.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-02)

Don Caverley, MNGA Speaker, extended his appreciation for the opportunity to engage in the session, and acknowledged the intent to conclude the meeting by 3:00 on January 25, 2009.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Malonie Langthorne, Acting Executive Director and Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) Clerk, conducted roll call. It was confirmed that **42** official MNGA delegates were in attendance, and quorum was therefore set at **22**.

4. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MNGA DRAFT AGENDA**

Reference materials provided in the distributed Agenda package:

- *Tab 1: Draft Agenda of the Métis Nation British Columbia Governing Assembly scheduled January 24 and 25, 2009.*

Dean Trumbley, Deputy Clerk, offered clarification regarding items included on the Agenda. A member requested that the Agenda be adjusted to include an opportunity for Presidents to provide updates regarding activities in their respective regions.

Main Motion

It was MOVED (Tom Spence) and SECONDED (Leo Brazeau)

That the Agenda for the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled January 24 and 25, 2009 be adopted as circulated.

Amendment to the Main Motion

It was MOVED (April McLean-Collart) and SECONDED (Ken Fisher)

That the Agenda be amended to include Item 7a) President's Updates, to provide an opportunity for updates no greater than two minutes in length.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-03)

Amendment to the Main Motion

It was MOVED (Sid Peltier) and SECONDED (Daniel Pitman)

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That the Agenda be further amended to consider the “Regional Director and Ministerial Update: Adhoc Adoptions Committee” as the first item on Day Two.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-04)

Question was then called on the Main Motion as amended and it was

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-05)

5. MINUTES

5a) MNGA Draft Minutes (December 15 and 16, 2007)

Provided under Tab 1 of the distributed Agenda package: Draft Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly held December 15 and 16, 2007.

Deputy Clerk Dean Trumbley led the meeting in a review of the December 15 and 16, 2007 Draft Minutes.

It was MOVED (Ken Fisher) and SECONDED (Sid Peltier)

That the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly held December 15 and 16, 2007 be adopted as presented.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-06)

5b) 2008 Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes

Provided under Tab 2, of the distributed Agenda package: Draft Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia Annual General Meeting held September 26-28, 2008.

Deputy Clerk Dean Trumbley referenced items deferred at the 2008 AGM to the MNGA, and suggested they be included on the Agenda.

It was MOVED (Tom Spence) and SECONDED (Dan Williamson)

That the Agenda be further amended to include the following items:

- Item 7b): Discussion regarding the Order of the Sash; and
- Item 7c): Numbers Required for Charter.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-07)

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 10:25 a.m. and reconvened at 10:52 a.m.

President Bruce Dumont acknowledged the spouses, family and other supporters of MNGA members. He also recognized the Métis Scouts tasked with protecting the Assembly and the Legal Counsel in attendance.

6. 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6a) Review Updated MNBC Constitution and Legislation

Reference materials provided in the distributed Agenda package:

- *Tab 3: Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution, revised September 2008;*
- *Tab 4: Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act, revised September 2008*
- *Tab 5: Métis Nation British Columbia Electoral Act, revised September 2007;*
- *Tab 6: Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship Act, revised September 2008;*
- *Tab 7: Métis Nation British Columbia Senate Act, revised September 2008; and*
- *Tab 8: Métis Nation British Columbia Natural Resource Act, draft November 6, 2007.*

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Deputy Clerk Dean Trumbley acknowledged that the information included in the distributed Agenda package was available via the website. He clarified that information presented under Item 6 was provided for information. It was requested that in the future, amended sections of documents presented to the MNBC MNGA, be highlighted.

6b) **Set Location for the 2009 Métis Nation British Columbia General Election**

Reference materials provided in the distributed Agenda package:

- *Tab 9: Information related to “Invitation to Tender to Host the 2009 Métis Nation British Columbia Annual General Meeting”.*

Brittaney Katernick, Executive Assistant, led the meeting in a review of the information provided relative to options for the location of the September 2009 AGM.

She explained that consideration was given to holding the AGM in Penticton and in Kamloops (both being chartered communities). It was noted that in Penticton, the meetings, hotel rooms, and meals could not be accommodated in one facility. In Kamloops however, the meetings, hotel rooms and meals could be accommodated in one facility.

A discussion ensued regarding the cost of the event. It was suggested that when evaluating locations for meetings, consideration be given to the Métis community in the vicinity.

The Executive Assistant confirmed that both quotes were gathered concurrently and were available for consideration at the last AGM.

It was MOVED (Tom Spence) and SECONDED (Tony Goulet)

That the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly support the option presented for holding the 2009 Métis Nation British Columbia AGM in Penticton, BC.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-08)

Thanks were extended to the Executive Assistant and other staff members for their research relative to identifying an AGM location.

7. **RESOLUTION SUBMISSIONS**

Provided under Tab 10, of the distributed Agenda package were Resolutions #1 – 19 for the Métis Nation Governing Assembly January 24 and 25, 2009.

The decision made by Cowichan Valley to withdraw Resolution #4 and #5 was announced.

Deputy Speaker Mark Stevenson led the meeting in consideration of the presented resolutions.

7.1 **Proposed Resolution #1**

Proposed Resolution #1 was introduced.

It was MOVED (Donna Wright) and SECONDED (Bryce Mercredi)

WHEREAS: The term Housekeeping in the context of legislative or Constitutional amendments has not been defined;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Article 2.0 of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly Act is amended to include the Definition of Housekeeping as follows:

“Housekeeping Matters in the context of an amendment, addition or replacement of an

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Article contained in or proposed for Legislation or the Constitution means those matters that do not affect the meaning or intent of the Article or the subject Legislation or the Constitution. In the event of ambiguity, the proposed amendment, addition or replacement of an Article contained in or proposed for Legislation or the Constitution shall be deemed to be not a Housekeeping Matter”; and,

that the sub-articles following the addition of the term Housekeeping Matters be re-numbered accordingly.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-09)

7.2 Proposed Resolution #2

Proposed Resolution #2 was introduced. Deputy Clerk Dean Trumbley provided clarification regarding the reference to ‘Ministry’ in the resolution.

It was MOVED (Marilynn Taylor) and SECONDED (Tom Spence)

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Natural Resources head technician is the Director of Natural Resources;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that 11.5 is revised to read:

“The Director of Natural Resources, under the direction and guidance of the Ministry of Natural Resources, will be responsible for the implementation of the Consultation Guidelines”.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-10)

7.3 Proposed Resolution #3

Proposed Resolution #3 was introduced. Deputy Speaker Mark Stevenson confirmed the intent of the resolution to immunize those tasked with making decisions. Deputy Clerk Dean Trumbley further explained the wording of the resolution, which was based on language used for judges in existing legislation.

It was MOVED (Stephanie Albiston) and SECONDED (Rose Bortolon)

WHEREAS Senators should be protected from civil suit when performing their duties as MNBC Senators;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Article 3.0 of the Senate Act be amended to include Sub-Article 3.4 which shall read as follows:

“A Senator shall not be subject to any civil action, suit or prosecution as a result of any things done or not done in relation to the performance of their duties as Senators”.

RESOLVED (MNGA0901-11)

(1 delegate voting in the negative and 8 delegates abstaining from the vote)

7.4 Proposed Resolution #4

As indicated under Agenda Item 7 of these Minutes, Proposed Resolution #4 was withdrawn.

7.5 Proposed Resolution #5

As indicated under Agenda Item 7 of these Minutes, Proposed Resolution #5 was withdrawn.

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7.6 Proposed Resolution #6

Proposed Resolution #6 was introduced. Comments were offered regarding the election process in the Cowichan Valley. It was noted that members had ethical responsibilities to those who elected them to the office. There was a gap between people self-identifying as Métis in prior census counts and those being added to the central registry. It was questioned how an inaccurate reflection of 'Métis representation' could be prevented.

During an ensuing discussion members recognized that some communities maintained a community list and a citizenship list. It was further noted that in the last election over 1,000 members were disenfranchised and weren't able to cast ballots. Many were unaware that only card-holding members could vote. It was suggested that the current system would benefit from revisions.

Health Break

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Announcements

Kim Hodgson referenced BC 150 funding, which delivered \$1,400 to each community. She requested that financial reports for the funding be compiled and submitted as soon as possible. Information should be provided regarding when an event would be held or if the money would instead be used for cultural items.

President Hodgson further announced that the 8th Annual National Michif Language Conference was scheduled March 27-29, 2009 in Harrison Hot Springs. He noted the Michif Language Immersion Camp would be held in conjunction with the conference. Participants were welcomed to contact her or their respective Regional Directors for further information.

Participants were further informed that a presentation was scheduled 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on January 24, 2009, regarding early learning programs at the community level.

7.6 Proposed Resolution #6 (Continued)

It was MOVED (Lorne LaFleur) and SECONDED (William Gagne)

WHEREAS under the MNBC Constitution Fundamental Rights of Métis People Article 6 Métis men and Métis women equally enjoy all civil and political rights set forth in these articles; and

WHEREAS under MNBC Constitution Fundamental Rights of Métis People Article 11 nothing in this Constitution abrogates or derogates from the rights Métis people have or may exercise under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

WHEREAS:

1. The fundamental rights of Métis peoples must be upheld for the purposes of exercising their democratic right to vote in Métis Nation British Columbia elections in the province of British Columbia;
2. Repeal of a law or laws is done when law or laws are no longer effective, or it is shown that a law or laws are having far more negative consequences than were originally envisioned;
3. Article 6 and Article 11 of the Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution must ensure protection of all rights to Métis peoples of B.C. to the extent they are not infringed upon

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or diminished as legislation is introduced to the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA).

4. It is clear that Métis people's rights in British Columbia have been infringed upon under Article 6 and Article 11 of the Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution subsequent to the ratification of the MNBC Constitution and subsequent to elections held under the authority of the MNBC Constitution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all legislation requiring Métis peoples of British Columbia to be registered with the Métis Nation British Columbia central registry for the sole purpose of voting in Métis Nation British Columbia Elections be repealed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Articles 40.1 and 40.2 be added to the Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution to read:

40.1 Métis peoples registered as members with Governance Chartered Communities of MNBC shall be recognized as eligible Voters to vote in Métis Nation British Columbia Elections provided they meet provisions of the MNBC Electoral Act

40.2 Governance Chartered Communities of MNBC shall submit their membership list for the sole purpose of elections to the MNBC Chief Electoral Officer as required/requested by the Chief Electoral Officer from time to time as the case may be.

RESOLUTION TABLED

It was suggested that Proposed Resolution #6 be tabled, and that a committee be established under the authority of the MNGA.

Deputy Clerk Dean Trumbley noted that a committee could be struck under the authority of this table, to deal with the issue, before reporting back to the table. A committee of seven members could bring forward recommendations to the next MNGA, and Terms of Reference could highlight its tasks and responsibilities.

It was MOVED (Lorne LaFleur) and SECONDED (Bruce Dumont)

That the motion to repeal the requirement that all Métis people be registered with the Central Registry (Proposed Resolution #6) be taken from the table; and further, that a committee be established under the authority of the MNGA.

RESOLVED BY CONCENSUS (MNGA0901-12)

Guest Speaker

Former Cabinet Minister Corky Evans conveyed greetings on behalf of Carol James and the New Democrats and extended gratitude for the meeting's generosity. He recognized the importance of leadership, and announced that he would be leaving politics after May 2009.

7.7 Proposed Resolution #7

Proposed Resolution #7 was introduced. President Dumont offered clarification relative to the source of the resolution. Deputy Clerk Dean Trumbley further explained that consideration could be given to future legislation relative to the presentation of resolutions.

1:54 p.m.

Don Caverley left his role as MNGA Speaker for consideration of the next item.

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During further discussion, it was suggested that the Métis Women of BC and the United Métis Youth Circle were not properly recognized in the current constitution.

It was MOVED (Rose Bortolon) and SECONDED (Stephanie Albiston)

WHEREAS, the existing wording in Article 46 only speaks to the MNBC; and

WHEREAS the MNBC is defined as the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS representatives of the Métis Women of BC, and the BC United Métis Youth Circle are elected through the MNBC General Election;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article 46 is rewritten to read:

A by-election shall be held within one hundred twenty (120) days of the date of any vacancy on the MNBC, the Métis Women of BC or the BC United Métis Youth Circle.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-13)

7.8 Proposed Resolution #8

Proposed Resolution #8 was introduced.

It was MOVED (Rose Bortolon) and SECONDED (Annette Maurice)

WHEREAS the term “By-Election” and “Election” as defined in the Electoral Act and dealt with in Articles 46 to 48 of the Constitution may be ambiguous and require clarification;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the definition of “By-Election” as set out in Article Three of the Electoral Act is amended to read as follows:

“By-Election” means an election to replace or fill a vacancy in the MNBC Board of Directors, the Métis Women BC and/or the BC United Métis Youth Circle when such vacancy is created by the removal, resignation or disqualification of the person previously holding the office as set out in Article 23 of the Constitution”; and further

The Definition of “Election” as set out in Article Three of the Electoral Act is amended to read as follows:

“Election(s)” means an election called by the Métis Nation British Columbia for the election of a President, Vice-President, Regional Directors, Chairperson or Regional Representative of the British Columbia United Métis Youth Circle, and the Chairperson and Regional Representatives of the Métis Women BC also known as the Métis Women’s Secretariat-British Columbia as set out in the Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution and includes By-Elections for the purposes of this Act”.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-14)

2:06 p.m.

Don Caverley resumed his role as MNGA Speaker.

7.9 Proposed Resolution #9

Proposed Resolution #9 was introduced. It was suggested that the MNGA Clerk should be a staff person with extensive knowledge of the Métis Nation British Columbia.

It was MOVED (Tom Spence) and SECONDED (Donna Wright)

WHEREAS the MNBC may wish to have a person other than the CEO act as the MNGA Clerk;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article 6.1 is revised to read:

“Be a designate of the Métis Provincial Council of BC”.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-15)

2:15 p.m.

Dean Trumbley left his role as MNGA Deputy Clerk for consideration of the next item.

7.10 Proposed Resolution #10

Proposed Resolution #10 was introduced.

Senate Clerk Dean Trumbley acknowledged current policies and procedures, noting that Senate representatives spoke to the MNGA through the Senate Clerk.

It was noted that in light of the comments provided by the Senate Clerk, the resolution had been answered. As such, the resolution was respectfully withdrawn.

During an ensuing discussion, a member noted that ‘due process’ should not conclude in the event of a grievance. It was further noted that the Senate should not need to be asked to defend its decision.

It was MOVED (Lorne LaFleur) and SECONDED (Ken Fisher)

WHEREAS under MNBC Constitution Fundamental Rights of Métis People Article 6, Métis men and Métis women equally enjoy all civil and political rights set forth in these articles and all other legislation that may apply; and

WHEREAS under MNBC Constitution Fundamental Rights of Métis People Article 11, nothing in this Constitution abrogates or derogates from the rights Métis people have or may exercise under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and all other legislation that may apply; and

WHEREAS a viable process to determine whether a right has been infringed upon is a basic democratic right and must be provided for all peoples, Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on political, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability; and

WHEREAS Métis peoples of British Columbia shall have the right to protection and access of all MNBC Constitutional and Legislative laws and due process must be afforded to all Métis peoples of British Columbia. All law must have a process of access, MNBC Laws that are not accessible to be interpreted or decisions rendered from the MNBC Senate infringes upon democratic and judicial rights of access for the Métis peoples of British Columbia.

As per Article 7.2:

“Be available to the MNGA for advice and direction as required”;

The MNBC Senate should be made available for this resolution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article 8.0 - 1. is added to the MNBC Senate Act to read:

“Constitutional and legislative interpretation.”

RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN

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2:21 p.m.

Dean Trumbley resumed his role as MNGA Deputy Clerk.

7.11 Proposed Resolution #11

Proposed Resolution #11 was introduced.

It was MOVED (Ken Fisher) and SECONDED (April McLean-Collart)

WHEREAS the term MNBC Harvesting Card is used in all sections of the Natural Resources Act, and

WHEREAS Section 8.1.3 uses the term MNBC Harvesters Card;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that 8.1.3 is rewritten to read;

“The holder of an MNBC Harvesting Card constitutes acceptance of all terms and conditions for use of the card as outlined in this Act and any subsequent regulations created under the authority of Article 9.0”.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-16)

7.12 Proposed Resolution #12

Proposed Resolution #12 was introduced.

In response to a request for clarification, Deputy Clerk Dean Trumbley noted that Article 9 under the Senate Act referred to appeals in general. Article 9.3 specifically and solely referred to citizenship. He noted that ‘Appeals’ were beyond ‘Citizenship’. Once the Senate made a decision it was forwarded in writing, and then taken into consideration.

In response to a request for clarification, Deputy Clerk Dean Trumbley offered comments regarding the definition of the Métis Nation British Columbia in the Act. He further explained that the Senate only identified flaws on a case by case basis, and did not provide direct instructions. When a decision was made, it was up to the relevant bodies to react. It was noted that Article 9 of the Senate Act referred to appeals.

During an ensuing discussion, the ability of the Senate to direct the MNGA was questioned. Members further questioned the process for appealing the Senate’s decision. The meeting considered revisions to the wording of the resolution and agreed to replace ‘consideration’ with ‘review’ and to omit ‘deemed’.

It was MOVED (Stephanie Albiston) and SECONDED (Dan Williamson)

WHEREAS the existing wording speaks to one jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS Article 9.0 deals with all appeals of the Senate; and

WHEREAS the decisions are made by the Senate not the Citizenship Appeals Committee;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article 9.3 is rewritten to read;

“The decisions of the Senate shall be in writing and forwarded to the Métis Nation British Columbia for its review and such action as necessary by the Métis Nation British Columbia”.

RESOLVED (MNGA0901-17)

(2 delegates voting in the negative, 1 delegate abstained from the vote)

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7.13 Proposed Resolution #13

Proposed Resolution #13 was introduced.

It was MOVED (Stephanie Albiston) and SECONDED (Rose Bortolon)

WHEREAS the British Columbia United Métis Youth Circle seeks to change their name; and

WHEREAS the MNBC citizens have ratified the Constitution in 2003 and subsequent legislative Acts that have continued to utilize the original name;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the British Columbia United Métis Youth Circle name be changed to the Métis Youth of British Columbia (MYBC).

RESOLVED (MNGA0901-18)

(1 delegate abstained from the vote)

Announcement

Speaker Don Caverley recognized Canadian authors Terry and George Goulet in attendance.

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 2:55 p.m. and resumed at 3:15 p.m.

Point of Information

Stephanie Albiston, Governance Committee Chair, explained that the resolutions package included all resolution submissions received. She noted that Resolutions #14-19 weren't attached to legislative acts, but were included in the Resolutions Package for the MNGA to determine how to best address them. It was suggested that clarification relative to the definition of 'resolutions', would be helpful.

7.14 Proposed Resolution #14

Proposed Resolution #14 was introduced. After reviewing the Constitution, the Deputy Clerk confirmed that Resolution #14 was not a legal resolution, as its submitter was not a member of the Métis Nation British Columbia.

7.15 Proposed Resolution #15

Proposed Resolution #15 was introduced. A member suggested that it was Métis Nation British Columbia's duty to consult with communities. It was noted that Enbridge and others sought meetings relative to the Milligan Mine operation. He added that due to a delayed response from the MNBC office for guidance, some deadlines for submissions relative to the issue had been missed.

Deputy Speaker Mark Stevenson confirmed the intent of the resolution for direction. Deputy Clerk Trumbley added that Métis Nation British Columbia was working behind the scenes regarding the issue – efforts would immediately proceed relative to forthcoming consultations. Communications would be sent out to communities explaining the 'tidied up' guidelines. Members questioned how Métis people could be more involved in consultations and in economic opportunities. Deputy Clerk Trumbley confirmed that Métis Nation British Columbia had not entered into any official consultation processes under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with Enbridge. The submitter of the resolution agreed that the issue could be accommodated through administrative processes.

3:40 p.m.

Don Caverley left his role as MNGA Speaker for consideration of the next item.

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7.16 Proposed Resolution #16

Proposed Resolution #16 was introduced. Deputy Clerk Trumbley explained that the Métis Nation British Columbia hired a Chief Electoral Officer to run its election process. It was up to the successful party to determine how much staff involved in the election process would be paid.

In response to questions raised, Don Caverley referenced the final report from Turtle Island Reporting Services, submitted by October 31, 2008. Requests received to reduce the length of election staff's shifts were acknowledged. He referenced an agreement that Métis Nation British Columbia would pay the Returning Officers, Services Officers and Polling Officers directly. He recalled his instructions and intent to run a fair and transparent process.

3:49 p.m.

Don Caverley rejoined the meeting and resumed his role as MNGA Speaker.

3:50 pm.

Dean Trumbley left his role as MNGA Deputy Clerk for consideration of the next item.

7.17 Proposed Resolution #17

The meeting discussed roles and responsibilities of the Senate. It was noted that the resolution suggested the establishment of an Ethics Committee.

Dean Trumbley as Senate Clerk reported that the Senate viewed itself as an Ethics Committee.

During an ensuing discussion, members suggested that the Ethics Committee could provide an alternative resolution to a problem, and should include professional members. Others expressed concerns regarding the creation of yet another committee.

In response to questions raised, Senate Clerk Trumbley noted that any application to the Senate would be responded to.

It was MOVED (Stephanie Albiston) and SECONDED (Tony Goulet)

WHEREAS Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) represents the "will" of Métis citizens in British Columbia; and

WHEREAS the MNBC has established a Constitution that enables the establishment of committee's as described in Article 17 that states: The MNBC shall have the authority to appoint Commissions, Committees or other subsidiary bodies, where they are deemed necessary in order to effectively carry out the activities and functions of the MNBC or the Métis Nation Governing Assembly. In appointing such bodies, the MNBC must ensure that adequate financial resources are available to permit the bodies to conduct their assigned activities and that all such bodies have clear terms of reference, including reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS the MNBC Annual General Meeting has been established to consider resolution submissions; and

WHEREAS the MNBC, the seven Regional Governance Councils, and Métis Chartered Communities continue to face issues related to ethics; and

WHEREAS the MNBC Board of Directors Manual empowers the MNBC Board to establish Ad Hoc Committees to address situations as they arise in Section C;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the MNBC Annual General Meeting delegates mandate the establishment of an “Ethics Committee” as per Article 17 of the MNBC Constitution. The Ethics Committee will be made up of one representative from each of the seven MNBC regions. The MNBC Board of Directors would appoint 2 representatives and each of the seven Regional Governance Councils would appoint one for a total committee of 9 members. The Ethics Committee would work as a standing committee for the MNBC Board of Directors and provide recommendations to the MNBC Board regarding agreed items the Ethics Committee believes must be addressed. The MNBC Board of Directors will be responsible to accept recommendations and report updates during the Métis Nation Governing Assemblies and Annual General Meetings.

RESOLUTION DEFEATED

(23 delegates voting in the negative, 11 delegates abstained from the vote)

4:14 p.m.

Dean Trumbley rejoined the meeting and resumed his role as MNGA Deputy Clerk.

7.18 Proposed Resolution #18 and #19

Proposed Resolutions #18 and #19 were introduced. It was confirmed that Resolutions #18 and #19 referred to the Skills Employment Centre.

Members discussed the need to consider resolutions that weren't legislative in nature. Deputy Speaker Mark Stevenson explained that the Governance Committee was uncertain regarding the validity of Proposed Resolutions #18 and #19. A member welcomed the opportunity to discuss and clarify issues related to the Employment Training and Skills Centre.

Speaker Caverley stressed the importance of discussing issues locally before bringing the issue forward in a resolution for consideration.

Agenda Varied

As per a previous resolution of the Assembly, the Agenda was varied to now consider Item 7a).

7a) President's Updates

Dan McDonald, Mid-Island Métis Nation, noted that a key issue in his community was the need to have a greater say in MNBC affairs. He added that communities were pushing towards a single person voting system when voting for the National President. He acknowledged that communities were eager to have a policy level influence on government, which was currently restricted legislatively.

Allan Lavallee, Waceyá Métis Society, reported that he was re-elected as President. He referenced a canoe trip his community had participated in, and acknowledged an ActNow project scheduled towards the end of March 2009. A fundraiser dance hosted in November 2008 was discussed.

John Lepine, Fraser Valley Métis Association, noted that the community was active and held a number of fundraising activities. Their youth project also seemed to be proceeding quite well.

William Gagne, Vernon Métis Association, reviewed the results of the recent election, noting that efforts were proceeding towards retaining office space. Fundraising efforts had been undertaken to bring Métis information into the school system.

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Leo Brazeau, Kelowna Métis Association, acknowledged successes including Louis Riel Day and some other well-attended functions. He noted that the office was open once a week for new citizenship. Genealogical resources were made available to applicants. Approximately 5-10 applications were received weekly. He added that three efficient and eager staff members worked in the office.

Dan Pitman, Métis Heritage Cultural Council, reported that the membership had grown to 106, and that the office was open five days a week. He added that three ActNow projects were proceeding. The efforts of the communities were recognized.

Eldon Clairmont, Salmon Arm Métis Association, acknowledged that he had been President of the community for 11 years. He referenced ActNow BC activities, noting that jigging lessons would soon be restarting. A survival workshop would be held during Spring Break. A youth proposal was being submitted for 2009/10. He added that a small gathering was being organized for the summer to coincide with a youth workshop. Cultural workshops held were also acknowledged and he advised that cultural activities would coincide with meetings.

Dan Williamson, Boundary Local Métis Association, noted that the recent election resulted in his election as President. He noted that the community was involved in ActNow. He acknowledged some opportunities planned over the coming years.

Donna Wright, West Local Nelson, noted that the community met the third Friday of each month. She commended the organizational efforts of her co-workers and acknowledged some small programs her group was involved in. An ActNow project was referenced, and the true Métis spirit of her community was acknowledged.

Allan Howell, New Caledonia Métis Association, extended thanks to MNBC, ActNow and BC150. He reported that ActNow was active, and that 32 were now registered to participate in the Vancouver Sun Run.

Tom Spence, Prince George Métis Community Association, referred to a youth program being run through Métis Youth B.C. He referenced successful community events including ActNow, BC150, and Louis Riel Day. He noted that he looked forward to a Contribution Agreement that could assist with sustainability issues. It was noted that an after-hours homeless centre would be established. Mr. Spence noted that there was a location in Prince George at which traditional hunting knowledge could be passed along to the Métis youth. Efforts to establish a partnership with others in this regard were acknowledged. Support was needed to encourage the youth to 'get back to the basics'.

Tony Goulet, North Cariboo Métis Association, noted that he'd been President for 11 years. He added that the office was open weekdays, and was involved with children, family and youth. Efforts were proceeding to assist Métis people relative to residential school compensation applications. Funding would be sought to help survivors complete their compensation forms. It was noted efforts were recently proceeding with the local MLA and the City to bring forward issues of common concern.

Alex Norquay, Cariboo Chilcotin, acknowledged his community's activities which were similar to the activities of others. He added that they continued to struggle with a lack of communications. Initiatives were being heard about through the rumor mills, rather than through the MNBC office. He requested information be conveyed to Métis associations on a regular basis.

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Ken Fisher, Nova Métis Heritage Association, welcomed participants to speak with him after the meeting to discuss his community's activities.

Kim Hodgson, Tri River Métis Association, reviewed some community activities scheduled over the next few months including: a Community Swim Day, Winter Fun Day, Sweetheart Bowling Day, and Injury Prevention Workshop for Elders, Ice Fishing Day, and Cooking for Life. Efforts were working towards a harvesting cultural camp in the fall in the Bulkley Valley. She added that in the north it was difficult to keep up communications. There were many rural communities, which contributed to the communication challenge. She added that the community was hands-on, resilient, and eager to expand and create opportunities. Thanks were extended to the many volunteers who contributed to the success of the community's many activities.

Sid Peltier, North West BC Métis Association, extended regrets on behalf of the President. He acknowledged that a group of participants were using pedometers to try and walk the distance between Greece and the 2010 Olympics. He added that there was greater recognition of Métis organizations at the provincial and federal levels. Greater involvement of youth was suggested.

April McLean-Collart, Northwest Métis Association, recognized challenges associated with getting youth out. She acknowledged the Louise Riel Day celebration which was attended by 60 Métis people. As part of the ActNow community proposal, skating, swim sessions and family activities had been planned. On January 22, 2009, Prince Rupert hosted a signing ceremony of agreement intended to assist Métis and Aboriginal people in community based resolution processes.

Sharon Payout, North East Métis Association, extended regrets on behalf of the President. She reviewed her responsibilities relative to the office, noting that workers were needed in the vicinity. Funding was available for security guards and other positions related to the pipeline.

William Bresser, Métis Nation Greater Victoria, noted that the office was now housed in the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, which enabled synergy with First Nations partners. Social events had been held, noting that one interesting speaker had been invited to each monthly potluck event. The UMAC program was just completed at which leaders attended three days of workshops. Fundraising efforts were reviewed, noting that opportunities to collaborate with others in the community had been welcomed. He added that a long-term goal was a building fund. Ideas relative to education programs were welcomed. He noted that guidance was sought relative to proposal writing – he welcomed the opportunity for someone to provide a workshop in this regard.

Ken Fisher, Nova Métis Heritage Association, referenced an annual Métis Festival and acknowledged activities related to Louis Riel Day; youth; and ActNow projects. He added that the office was only open two days a week for membership. He referenced his involvement in urban Aboriginal issues. A blood sausage making project would be scheduled. He added that efforts were being made to locate someone who made fiddles. Mr. Fisher referenced the need for a Métis specific facility. He invited Bev Lambert to report regarding youth activities.

Bev Lambert extended thanks to MNBC representatives and acknowledged a youth focused Christmas party. She added that youth had provided help as and when needed and assisted in acquiring the BC150 and ActNow funds. During the month of February a number of activities were scheduled including leggings and beading workshops. She stressed the importance of teaching youth to give back to their community.

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Mr. Fisher informed the meeting about the website (www.NovaMetisNewsLink.ca). Ms. Lambert added that she'd offered to provide free jigging classes in the community. He further welcomed email communications at: novametis@shaw.ca.

Leonard Laboucan, Vancouver Métis Cultural Society, referenced suggestions for youth firearms training and advised that youth potlucks had been held. He referenced an Aboriginal tourism blueprint strategy, and the need to guide Aboriginal tourism initiatives.

President Bruce Dumont commended Presidents for the many activities they were engaged in. Thanks were extended to Deputy Speaker Mark Stevenson for his expert assistance during the meetings consideration of preceding resolutions.

Although MNBC Treasurer Gerry Legare was unable to attend the meeting, the CFO maintained contact with him on a regular basis.

7b) **Order of the Sash**

Speaker Caverley welcomed comments regarding the Order of the Sash. No comments were provided.

7c) **Numbers Required for Charter**

It was noted that a resolution was submitted prior to the September 2008 AGM, by the Cowichan Valley. Existing language didn't recognize anyone under the age of 18 as community members. It was suggested the resolution proceed unless there were valid reasons otherwise.

5:20 p.m.

Don Caverley left his role as MNGA Speaker for consideration of the next item.

8. **MNBC 2009 ELECTION**

Malonie Langthorne, Acting Executive Director and Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) Clerk, acknowledged the following vacancies: three women's representatives from Regions 1, 4 and 7; and one youth representative from Region 6.

It was MOVED (Tom Spence) and SECONDED (William Gagne)

THAT the 2009 MNBC election process commence January 26, 2009, with nominations being closed on March 13 2009 and Election Day being held April 18, 2009; and furthermore should any additional board vacancies, regional women or regional youth vacancies occur before March 13, 2009, they be added accordingly before the election.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-19)

Malonie Langthorne, Acting Executive Director and Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) Clerk, acknowledged healthy dialogue throughout the session, and extended thanks the Deputy Clerk for his assistance.

10.19 **Proposed Resolution #19**

Proposed Resolution #19 was not considered.

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled January 24 and 25, 2009 adjourned on Day 1 - January 24, 2009 at approximately 5:30 p.m. and set a time to reconvene on Day 2 - January 25, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

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DAY 2 – JANUARY 23, 2009

ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

Speaker Don Caverley reconvened the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly scheduled January 24 and 25, 2009 on Day 2 – January 25, 2009 at 8:40 a.m. Following a roll call, the Speaker acknowledged that **36** delegates were in attendance.

Agenda Review

It was agreed that written reports of the Regional Director and Ministerial Updates would be provided within seven to ten days. It was noted that further consideration of Item 7b) Order of the Sash, would occur following Item 9c).

Agenda Varied

As per a previous resolution of the Assembly, the Agenda was varied to now consider Item 9e).

9. EXECUTIVE UPDATES

9e) Adhoc Adoptions Committee

Sid Peltier, Chair, Adhoc Adoptions Committee, recognized members of the committee. Dan Pitman introduced an overhead presentation, which offered information on the slides titled:

- 2004-2005 Ministry of Child and Family Development Annual Service Plan Report
- 2006-2007 MCFD Service Plan
- Table 1: CIC Monthly and Annual Growth, October 2007-2008
- Foster Care in BC
- Permanency Planning
- Aboriginal Adoptions
- Aboriginal Adoptions by Type of Adoptive Home
- And so...

During the presentation, he referenced the number of Métis children being adopted into non-Métis families, noting that in November 2008 there were 693 known Métis children in care. Approximately 51% of children removed from their homes and placed in foster care had Aboriginal status. He noted that when a child could not stay with their parents or extended family, the Ministry sought stable and life-long attachments for the child through adoptions. Mr. Pitman reported that since 2006, there had been a decline in the percentage of Métis adoptions.

Chair Peltier added that the Citizenship Act did not make provisions for adoptees that could not obtain the required documentation to fulfil the genealogical component of their citizenship application. Furthermore, an adoptee may access their birth records from Vital Statistics, but may not be able to access to any disclosure information. It could however, recognize their Métis background. A recommendation could indicate that such a limited birth record could stand as evidence to complete a Métis citizenship application. Legislation would need to be changed to accommodate this.

It was noted that many non-Métis children adopted by Métis families had been accepted by their community as being Métis. Unfortunately, legislation was not in place to recognize them as Métis. He suggested future consideration of the following resolution: “That all non-Métis persons that have been adopted by a Métis family will qualify for citizenship providing they self-identify as Métis, they are familiar with Métis culture and history, and are accepted by the Métis Nation”. It was noted that those unable to find their genealogy should not be penalized for a lack of available proof. Presidents were encouraged to seek feedback from their locals and members in this regard.

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To accommodate the adopted non-Métis person's children, it was suggested that the following resolution could be considered: "That all children of a non-Métis person that has been adopted by a Métis family, may apply for citizenship by individual application upon reaching 19, or when sponsored by their adoptive parents. To satisfy the definition of Métis, they must self-identify, be familiar with Métis culture and history and be accepted by the Métis Nation". He acknowledged challenges facing this minority group of adoptees. Historically, it was not uncommon for Métis families to raise non-Métis children as their own. Regardless of their background, the adopted children were recognized as members of their adoptive families.

The meeting was informed that the number of Métis children being put up for adoption in BC and being adopted by non-Métis families, was increasing. The meeting's consideration of the following resolution was suggested: "Move the Adhoc Adoptions Committee to be part of the Métis Children and Family Services, to strengthen the committee".

Participants were welcomed to ask questions and provide comments, which prompted the following responses:

- A participant shared his personal story noting that although he was raised by a Métis family, he was not technically considered Métis. He challenged the Presidents to address this critically important issue.
- Another participant acknowledged that he had adopted children one of which now self-identified as a Métis person. He stressed the need to acknowledge the rights of all Canadians.
- Another participant recognized herself as an adoptee and a Bill C-31 person. She shared her personal story regarding her childhood, and noted that the current system enabled discrimination.
- A participant added that he would be upset leaving the MNGA without a decision being made regarding the issue of adoption.

It was MOVED (Marilyn Taylor) and SECONDED (Lorne LaFleur)

That the Adhoc Adoption Committee be moved to be under the auspices of the Métis Children and Family Services.

DEFERRED

During an ensuing discussion, a member acknowledged that many adopted children were unaware that they were Métis. He further questioned how the proposed changes might impact the registry, and what other provinces were doing in this regard.

In response to questions regarding benefits of moving the committee under the auspices of the Métis Children and Family Services, Mr. Peltier referenced access to more funding, and noted that the move would create greater continuity and more opportunities to accomplish goals.

A member suggested the resolution be amended to indicate that that Ad Hoc Adoptions Committee come under the auspices of the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Ministry of Child and Family, under article 31 of the Constitution (which stated that the MNGA had the authority to appoint committees and commissions).

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Deputy Clerk Trumbley advised that the committee was struck by the MNGA for the purpose of dealing with the legislation. If the committee became a part of the Ministry of Child and Family, they would no longer be accountable to the MNGA table.

Speaker Caverley, Deputy Clerk Trumbley, Sid Peltier, and Dan Pitman, agreed to caucus briefly to discuss options for proceeding relative to the resolution. Consideration of the deferred motion resumed following Item 10.1.

Agenda Varied

The Agenda was varied to now consider Item 10.1, a presentation by Gregg Dahl, Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Gregg Dahl, Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians

Mr. Dahl extended thanks for the opportunity to speak to the MNGA, reviewed his role within the Office of the Federal Interlocutor, and recognized that he was a Métis person. He introduced an overhead presentation which offered information on the slides titled:

- Welcome
- Background – Crown Consultations
- The Duty to Consult
- Engagement
- Key Policy Issues
- Working Together
- Ensuring Parties are at the Table
- Moving Forward with Discussions
- Making Linkages

During the presentation he provided the following comments:

- the Government of Canada consulted with Canadians on matters of interest and concern;
- in addition to good governance objectives, the Government of Canada consulted with Aboriginal people for legal reasons;
- in the Haida, Taku River and Mikisew Cree decisions, the Supreme Court of Canada held that the Crown had a legal duty to consult;
- in the decisions, the Supreme Court of Canada also determined that the legal duty to consult stemmed from the Crown's unique relationship with Aboriginal peoples, and must be discharged in a manner which upheld the honour of the Crown and promoted the reconciliation of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal interests;
- the only proven Métis right, was the right to hunt;
- preparatory discussions took place in the fall of 2005 and concluded in late spring 2006 during which legal and policy challenges were raised relating to the fulfilment of the Crown's legal duty to consult as well as consultation in general;
- discussions were not solely about consultation to fulfil a legal duty to consult, but also about: consultation as good public policy, good governance, fostering better relations between the federal government and Aboriginal peoples, demonstrating the government of Canada's commitment to act in good faith, and upholding the honour of the Crown;
- the action plan on consultation and accommodation was launched November 1, 2007; information regarding the Action Plan was available at www.inac.gc.ca;
- one of the critical elements of the Action Plan was an engagement process whereby federal officials would come together with national and provincial/territorial Aboriginal groups and communities, provincial and territorial governments and industry representatives, to discuss key policy issues;

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- the purpose of these discussions would be to inform the development of options for a federal policy approach on consultation and accommodation;
- it was expected that such a federal policy approach would enable the legal duty to be fulfilled in a more consistent, coherent and efficient way across the federal government;
- a web-based geomatic database was being developed that would enable a user to access a series of maps and information regarding treaty and Aboriginal rights within a specific area; it provided information for proponents and government agencies and would allow a use to find out where asserted and proven Aboriginal and treaty rights were in play;
- ongoing discussions with Aboriginal groups and other stakeholders identified some key policy issues including:
 - elements of a meaningful consultation
 - capacity to engage in a consultation process
 - nature of accommodation
 - options for an effective federal policy approach
 - consultation and other initiatives: coordination and integration of Crown, industry and Aboriginal consultation processes and interaction of consultation with other government initiatives;
- the Government of Canada carries out a variety of activities via its departments and agencies;
- as soon as the federal government is aware of a project, it should begin discussing it;
- after a consultation process has been initiated, challenges may arise in determining how parties should participate;
- successful outcomes of the consultation process should be that it felt ‘meaningful’;
- Gregg Dahl can be reached at: 613-992-3705; 613-762-2509 (cell); or dahlg@inac.gc.ca;

In response to a question raised, Mr. Dahl noted that government’s response to the MNC’s recent funding request was uncertain. He further confirmed that although the Office of the Federal Interlocutor had been moved administratively into INAC, it maintained a separate mandate.

9e) **Adhoc Adoptions Committee (Continued)**

Consideration of Item 9(e), deferred until following Item 10.1, resumed at this point.

Speaker Caverley recognized deliberations with respect to the deferred motion regarding the Adhoc Adoption Committee. With the approval of the Mover and Seconder, the resolution on the floor was withdrawn.

It was MOVED (Marilyn Taylor) and SECONDED (Lorne LaFleur)

That the Adhoc Adoption Committee be moved under the auspices of the Métis Children and Family Services.

RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN

It was MOVED (David Hodgson) and SECONDED (Daniel Pitman)

That the life of the Adhoc Adoptions Committee be extended to continue to work to provide recommendations at the next sitting of the MNGA; and furthermore, as per Section 31 of the Constitution, the MNGA direct the Métis Nation British Columbia/MPCBC to seek adequate resources to allow the Ad Hoc Adoptions Committee to conduct business.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (MNGA0901-20)

It was requested that copies of Sid Peltier and Dan Pitman’s speaking notes related to the Adhoc Adoption Committee presentation, be provided to MNGA members for information.

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Health Break

The meeting recessed at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

9. EXECUTIVE UPDATES

9a) President

President Dumont acknowledged that the Executive Committee was comprised of a President, Vice President and two others appointed by the Board of Directors. He reviewed his roles including: Minister of Registry, Minister of Health, President of the Métis Nation British Columbia, and member of the Board of Governors of the MNC. He added that the National President asked him to assume responsibilities relative to heritage, culture language and sports. A large Batoche celebration planned for 2010 was also referenced.

President Dumont acknowledged a funding proposal to benefit Métis Veterans, submitted by Lissa Smith, which had now been verbally approved.

He announced that he was also the lead for the 2010 Olympics Committee. As a lot of work needed to be done relative to the 2010 Olympics, Marcel Chalmers had been selected by the HR Committee as Coordinator for the Olympics. The President encouraged participants to visit the 2010 Website for information regarding the torchbearers, and referenced Métis involvement in the torch run.

The President noted that VANOC was building strong relationships with Métis and other groups. He referenced restrictions relative to clothing that could be worn when representing VANOC, noting that a commemorative sash was being developed which included the Olympic rings. He concluded his update, by introducing a video presentation regarding the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

9b) Vice President

Vice President David Hodgson reported that he'd been kept busy since the election. He recognized his role to assure communities that the Métis Nation British Columbia was working with them. Vice President Hodgson added that he was working with the Prince George community regarding some issues relative to children. Presidents were encouraged to get information out to their respective members.

9c) Secretary

Secretary Dan Pope acknowledged a modest increase in contribution funding received from government partners during the 2008-09 fiscal year. Additionally, he noted that the Métis Nation British Columbia received funding for a variety of issues including: youth, women, child, and family. The Métis Nation British Columbia worked hard to meet deliverables laid out in contribution and funding agreements. He noted that the senior team continued to find ways to reduce costs of the core operations. The importance of conveying timely and accurate information to communities was referenced. He confirmed that audited financial statements would be provided at the AGM in September 2009.

Agenda Varied

As agreed earlier in the meeting, the Agenda was varied to now allow for further discussion regarding Item 7b) – Order of the Sash.

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7b) Order of the Sash (Continued)

A member expressed concerns that the Order of the Sash had been awarded with minimal acknowledgement. It was further suggested that a different award be issued to those working with Métis people, than the award issued to Métis people.

During an ensuing discussion, President Dumont noted that the Order of the Sash was not awarded frivolously or without thought. Members added that the Order needed to be highly regarded, and that further consideration should be given to an alternative award for the many past and future friends of the Métis nation. The development of an 'honours' policy to outline who had the authority to make such awards was discussed. President Dumont confirmed that a policy could be developed in this regard before the next AGM. The Assembly was informed that an information sheet which explained the Oath of the Sash could be obtained through the MNBC office.

In response to a request for clarification regarding why some Registry Clerk positions had been reduced to part-time positions, President Dumont acknowledged funding shortfalls.

17. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

President Dumont thanked delegates for their attendance and acknowledged the assistance of Speaker Caverley and Deputy Speaker Stevenson. The efforts of the MNBC staff and their assistance in organizing the MNGA were acknowledged. He expressed hopes that the upcoming federal budget would include funding for Métis across Canada.

Malonie Langthorne, Acting Executive Director and Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) Clerk, recognized the need for communications, noting that she intended to attend regional governance meetings. She welcomed participants to contact her with any questions she could assist with.

Speaker Caverley led the meeting in a round of applause in recognition for the continued efforts of the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and the Recording Secretary. He referenced his involvement in attending MNGA meetings since 2005. Presidents were acknowledged for their continued support of each other.

Senators Gladue and Thiebeault offered a Closing Prayer, alternating between English and Cree.

The Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly Meeting held January 24 and 25, 2009 concluded on Day Two – January 23, 2009 at 12:05 p.m.

* * * * *

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Nation Governing Assembly Meeting held January 24 and 25, 2009 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption.

Dan Pope, Secretary

Bruce Dumont, President