

ADOPTED



LES FEMMES MICHIF OTIPEMISIWAK WOMEN OF THE MÉTIS NATION

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 16-17, 2013**

Minutes of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) Annual General Meeting (AGM) held March 16-17, 2013 at the Courtyard by Marriott, 350 Dalhousie Street, Ottawa, ON.

DAY ONE – MARCH 16, 2013

OPENING PRAYER

WMN President Omeniho called the AGM to order at 9:05 a.m. Jo MacQuarrie offered an Opening Prayer.

WELCOMING REMARKS

Sharon McBride, Metis Nation of Ontario Vice Chair

MNO Vice Chair McBride welcomed delegates to the AGM, noting that it was Ontario's honour to host the event. She conveyed the regards of MNO President Gary Lipinski and offered his congratulations on the WMN's accomplishments over the past year. She spoke of the importance of connecting with Metis children and youth, and acknowledged this as a current in Ontario.

Clement Chartier, Métis National Council President

MNC President Chartier welcomed delegates to the AGM, and acknowledged Metis women as leaders at every level and walk of life in Metis communities. He discussed the importance of Metis women being involved in the WMN, and acknowledged their interest to meet to discuss issues that they felt might not be getting the attention that they should be in the broader dialogue of the Metis Nation.

The MNC President discussed a 2010 when there was a meeting on the Rights of the Metis Child that took many years to arrange nationally from which draft Blueprint on the Rights of Metis Child was developed. Although the Draft Blueprint was brought before the MNC Annual General Assembly (AGA) that year, due to a procedural technicality it could not be considered at that time. The need to deal with the Draft Blueprint as a pressing issue at this year's AGA was noted.

The importance of the WMN pressing leadership to address these issues was acknowledged, with recognition that much of the focus of the MNC in recent years had been on economics, legalities, and governance. He believed it was important and instrumental for the WMN to come forward and make its positions known and to give direction to their respective governments on issues of concern.

ADOPTED

MNC President Chartier referenced the key and instrumental role of the WMN in the Metis Nation. He noted that the Metis are a young, new nation. It was Metis women who gave birth to the nation and who have a critical role to continue to nurture the Nation, defend the Nation, and make sure that the Nation has a future that will never be taken away.

OPENING REMARKS

Melanie Omeniho, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak Women of the Metis Nation President

WMN President Omeniho welcomed delegates to the AGM and noted her gratefulness for their attendance. She introduced the WMN Board of Directors: Sharon McBride, ON; Monelle Bailey, SK; Brenda Bourque Stratischuk, AB; and Clara Dal Col, BC, and advised of her appreciation for each Board director for their attendance, support, and willingness to work together as a team. She also acknowledged the support the WMN receives from the MNC President, and the receptivity of the Board of Governors in moving forward agenda items of importance to the WMN.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CO-CHAIRS

Co-Chairs Michelle LeClair and Kathy Hodgson-Smith were introduced.

ROLL CALL

For the purpose of Roll Call, Co-Chair Le Clair invited delegates to provide self-introductions (a list of delegates present is attached).

BUSINESS AGENDA

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

It was MOVED (Jackie Finnie, BC) and SECONDED (Helene Johnson, SK)

That the Agenda for the Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak Women of the Métis Nation Annual General Meeting scheduled March 16-17, 2013 be accepted with amendment to add Other Business Items Resolutions, and Metis Elders Abuse Awareness Program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM13031616-01)

2. **Approval of the 2012 General Assembly Minutes**

Provided under Tab 2 of the Agenda package: Draft Minutes of the Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak Women of the Métis National Assembly held March 30-31, 2012.

It was MOVED (Sharon McBride, ON) and SECONDED (Clara Morin Dal Col, BC)

That the Minutes of the Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation National Assembly held March 30-31, 2012 be accepted with amendment to correct the misspellings of delegates' names as required.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM13031616-02)

3. **Report on Women of the Métis Nation Activities 2012-2013**

Related information provided on-table: President's Annual Report.

WMN President Omeniho referred to the on-table report highlighting activities over the prior year, and identifying areas of importance and significance. She offered the following additional comments:

- Multi-year core funding for 2012-13 and 2013-14 had been received in November 2012
- The Board of Directors is represented by directors from Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and BC, and each has 10 voting delegates at the AGM

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- In October 2010, Manitoba left the table but has always been welcomed to re-join; Manitoba has participated in several activities of common interest and would have attended this AGM except for the increased activity in their province as a result of the recent win in the *MMF* case
- WMN has been participating with the MNC which is moving into an accord with the federal government on increased accountability and transparency; the MNC has gone through comprehensive audits and an organizational review, which the WMN has learned from
- WMN Board training is planned for April 2013
- The WMN website will be launched at the AGM; feedback and suggestions are welcomed
- Based on feedback received at the prior year's AGM, a framework of goals and priorities has been developed; delegates will have a further opportunity for input during the strategic planning session the following day
- It is important to involve youth, who can play a particularly key role in communications
- The WMN President has participated on the Metis Rights Panel where there has been discussion on a national ballot box election, the need to ensure the definition of Metis is being consistently implemented, and acknowledgement of the importance of unity
- The *Daniels* decision clarified that when the Constitution was being developed the term "Indian" included Metis, Inuit and First Nations people, much as the term "Aboriginal" does today
- The WMN President participates on the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG), which stemmed from the failed Kelowna Accord as an effort to try to move forward in the areas of education, economic development and violence against Aboriginal women
- The WMN President participates on the AAWG's Violence Against Aboriginal Women Subcommittee where there has been discussion on the need for an inquiry into the missing and murdered Aboriginal women; the MNC Board of Governors has indicated its support for an inquiry.

In response to a query, WMN President Omeniho advised that some years ago the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) received funding for its Sisters in Spirit Program to develop a database, which listed 537 missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. NWAC has not received funding for its program for the past three years. However, the RCMP received \$10 million to develop its own database and has recently stated that they do not believe there is more than 60 women on the list, and has challenged NWAC to provide its database.

Discussion ensued on:

- Suggestion that an independent body conduct an investigation into allegations of RCMP members abuse of Aboriginal women
- Suggestion that Metis communities assist in gathering information on missing and murdered Aboriginal women
- Need to develop policy papers on issues of concern that can be presented to the United Nations and other international bodies that can influence the Canadian government
- In making recommendations for change, the need to consider that much of the sex trade is being conducted online
- Saskatchewan's three year program on Violence against Women and Children for Rural and Remote Areas
- Need for preventative measures to educate Metis youth, many of whom come from poverty, about the dangers of the sex trade

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- Soon to be signed Memorandum of Understanding on stopping violence against Aboriginal Women and Girls in BC
- Suggestion that the WMN website include a link to the MNO's report explaining its process for engaging and involving Metis in Ontario
- Availability of BC's Oppal Commission report and recommendations online
- Concern that Saskatchewan is turning a "blind eye" and has been cutting back on policing and social programs
- Need for increased education for parents so that they can help their children to be safe at an early age
- Need for proactively involving Metis role models and mentors in the school systems in order to reach vulnerable Metis and to break the chain of alcohol and drug use
- Concern regarding children learning about racism and labelling in the school system
- Information on a Comox Valley Aboriginal Educators program which includes interacting with youth during lunch at school
- Need for a well rounded approach on the issue of violence against women
- Concern that some of the methods engaged in to protect women, i.e. removing violent men from the homes who at the same time may be the only income provider, bring a second layer of victimization to the home
- Important role of Metis women in the culture of how we treat one another
- Concern regarding instances of women being incarcerated for defending themselves not in the moment, but when the moment presents itself and the crucial need for related research
- Existence of therapeutic and domestic violence courts where perpetrators can access help at the sentencing level
- Need for Metis women to take on a leadership role to address underlying intergenerational affects of domestic violence
- Concern that jails are "schools of crime" and that people do not come home from jail safer for the communities than when they left
- Lack of access to culturally appropriate programming and material for violent offenders
- Concern regarding children who are placed when their parents are in jail or elsewhere and who have possibility also been abused themselves
- Need for violence in the home programming that extends to the families, children and extended families of the perpetrators
- Methods for addressing conflicts between the RCMP and Metis families
- Importance of educating RCMP about who the Metis are
- Need to remind RCMP of their mandate "To Serve and Protect"
- Need to educate the men and young fathers on abuse against women.

Request for Action (RFA-AGM130316-01)

It was requested that the WMN look into the possibility of a national inquiry by an independent body to investigate allegations made against the RCMP regarding abuse of Aboriginal women.

It was MOVED (Colleen Hamelton, SK) and SECONDED (Gloria Laird, AB)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation receive for information the on-table President's Annual Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130316-03)

Agenda Varied

The order of the Agenda was varied to consider Item 4, Financial Report, and sub-items 4.1 and 4.2 on Day Two – March 17, 2013 following Item 7.2.

5. Keynote Speaker – Metis Nation Constitution

- *Provided under Tab 3 of the Agenda package: Draft Constitution of the Government and People of the Metis Nation – Draft – For Discussion Purposes Only, dated March 11, 2013.*
- *Provided under Tab 4 of the Agenda package: National Definition of Metis and Acceptance Process Consultation Document (February 2006).*
- *Provided under Tab 6 of the Agenda package: Supreme Court of Canada Judgment No. 33880 between Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. – Appellants and Attorney General of Canada and Attorney General of Manitoba – Respondents.*
- *Provided in the Agenda package: Booklet “From: Nobody’s Children – March 2012 to: Children of the Metis Nation – March 2013” by Clement Chartier.*

MNC President Chartier discussed the importance of a Constitution as a document to evidence the existence of the Metis Nation, express the political will of the Metis people, and to guide the Metis into the future while building on the past. At the MNC’s 2010 Annual General Assembly (AGA), a governance process for developing a Constitution was adopted. It was hoped that the Constitution Convention to be held in conjunction with the MNC’s AGA in December 2013 would result in the adoption of a Constitution this year.

The MNC President noted that the Metis are a distinct people, with a history, defined common geographic territory, common traditions, music, dances, and symbols including its flag, which would be 200 years old in 2016. He discussed the history of Metis resistance in Canada, the rising political awareness of the Metis, and the formation of the MNC and its Governing Members. He noted that the Metis are a people and have all the attributes necessary under international law to prove their existence as a people.

With respect to land rights, the Metis have faced dispossession from their territories. The *Manitoba Act 1870* was a partial accommodation to the children of Metis heads of families, but by and large they did not receive what they rightfully deserved. Outside of Manitoba, the *Dominion Lands Act* to administer public lands dealt with Metis through an allocation of land or money scrip for the purchase of land. Since that time, Metis had been treated as individuals, which continued to this day, although there is increasing recognition of the Metis as a people.

An overview of court decisions of importance to the Metis Nation was provided, including the *Blais* case, the *Daniels* case, and the recent *MMF* case. Information was also provided on the *Morin* test case being brought in Northwest Saskatchewan arguing that the scrip issued in that area did not extinguish Aboriginal title. However, with the Supreme Court of Canada ruling in *MMF*, it was hoped that it would not be necessary for *Morin* case to be settled.

MNC President Chartier discussed sections 91 and 92 of the Constitution setting out the division of powers between the provincial and federal governments, and commented on the Metis being caught in “jurisdictional limbo” in which neither level of government accepts responsibility to deal with the Metis. He discussed the struggle of the Inuit for recognition in Canada, which resulted in an amendment to the *Indian Act*.

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It was noted that *Daniels* argued that Metis are Indians for the purpose of s.91(24) of the Constitution because that is the level of government that has the legal authority to enter into relationships with Aboriginal peoples. That decision is being appealed, and the MNC is applying for intervener status. It was anticipated that the higher court would agree with the lower court ruling in favour of the Metis. Regardless, it does not change who the Metis are, and there could be future interest to seek an amendment to the Constitution to change the term from “Indians” to “Aboriginal Peoples”, which would have come about if the Charlottetown Accord had passed.

Metis have gone through a long period of exclusion, including from the Comprehensive Claims Process. That process is only open to Indian bands as defined by the *Indian Act*, which is reason that the *MMF* and *Morin* claims were filed. Metis are also excluded in the recognition of Veterans, and Residential School survivors, and this exclusion will continue until accommodations are made. Nevertheless, if recent court cases are considered in combination, it is unlikely that the federal government will continue to ignore s.91(24).

The MNC President emphasized the importance of the Metis Nation driving its Constitution home. Further comments were offered on the Constitution Conferences held in 1983-87 and 1992; establishment of the Native Council of Canada in 1971, in which the Metis had become a minority by 1981; the Edmonton Accord and the March 8, 1983 formation of the MNC; pursuit of Metis rights under s. 91(24) on the right of self-determination and the fall back position relative to s. 35; and the *Powley* victory in 2005.

MNC President Chartier noted that courts increasingly understand and recognize that the Metis are a distinct people with rights and a history, and cited the *Cunningham* case in which the Supreme Court of Canada said that the Metis have the right to determine their own citizenship. Further to this, he discussed the key role of the Registries and the need for further work on the Acceptance Process, which defines the Metis and who is entitled to be registered as a Metis citizen.

In response to delegates' questions, MNC President Chartier discussed:

- In 1993 the Metis Nation – Saskatchewan (MNS) Assembly decided to take forward *Morin* as a test case because it was seen as the strongest case at the time
- *Belhumer* was won but has been appealed; meanwhile, efforts are ongoing to negotiate a province-wide harvesting agreement with the MNS
- The Metis Nation Constitution will be the law of the Metis Nation; following its adoption, Canada will be asked to pass a Canada Metis Nations Relations Agreement to accommodate Metis self-government
- Implications of the *MMF* decision will be discussed at the MNC AGA in March 2013
- Although there are people of mixed ancestry in eastern Canada, many of them evolved as Acadians or Quebecois, and others call themselves Metis; however, the Metis emerged as a distinct people in the northwest
- Recognition that the voyageurs, some of whom came from Quebec, helped develop the Metis Nation and there are therefore connections to Quebec; however, the new distinct people (the Metis) evolved in the northwest
- Metis are Metis regardless of whether they are resident in the Metis homeland; the need for discussion on a system for registering all Metis people as citizens of the Metis Nation regardless of where they live is recognized; and efforts to establish a national registry are ongoing

- Agreement that Metis harvesting rights should be portable
- Metis in the Northwest Territories (NWT) live north of 60 and as such the federal government has jurisdiction for them; NWT Metis are negotiating land rights and have recently sought a reaffirmation that they are not part of the MNC and that they have the right to represent themselves
- Scrip is helpful, as are the Manitoba Affidavits, in the process of proving that historically a family identified as Metis.

Marc LeClair, LeClair Infocom, presented the WMN website www.metiswomen.org, and provided an overview of its sections titled Home, About WMN, Projects, Opportunities, Documents Repository, Links, Media Galley, and Contacts. The website is a work in progress, and delegates were invited to forward any comments/suggestions or information for inclusion on the website.

Mr. LeClair referred delegates to the book "Nation Maker" by Richard Gywn for additional information on the history of the Metis in Canada.

6. Biodiversity

Provided on-table at the meeting:

- *2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada*
- *Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FTP) Biodiversity Working Group paper "What We Heard – Input Received Through Engagement on the Proposed 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada", dated January 2013*
- *Toward 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada: Status and Next Steps, FPT Biodiversity Working Group, January 2013*
- *Letter from Robert McLean, Executive Director, Wildlife Program Policy, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Environment Canada.*

Co-Chair Hodgson-Smith discussed the Convention on Biological Diversity, which recognizes that what each country does affects all others in the world. Information was offered on the Convention of the Parties 2010, which passed a resolution and a strategic plan identifying goals and targets including:

- addressing underlying causes of biological issues around the globe in an approach that engages everybody in society
- reducing any pressures we are putting on the planet and promoting sustainable use approaches
- looking specifically at vulnerable areas, such as species particularly at risk, restoration of degraded areas, melting glacier issue (which the Inuit are very involved in and from which much can be learned)
- equitably sharing access and benefits as a way to ensure that everyone is engaged and understands how development occurs and is a key value to protecting the environment
- improving implementation of legislation that is meant to promote and protect the environment, including a review of the practices for protecting the environment, which explicitly acknowledges that Indigenous peoples around the world understand how to conserve the land; this is also acknowledged in the Species at Risk Act in which the role of traditional resource users is an essential part.

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Co-Chair Hodgson-Smith posed the question of how to bring together both scientific and Metis traditional knowledge, noting that this is a core question that will come from every front. The current requirement is that there be engagement of Aboriginal traditional knowledge, and there is engagement with First Nations and Inuit. If Metis want to be involved they need to begin to speak about the importance of that engagement. Co-Chair Hodgson-Smith commented on the need for Metis women to ensure that the approaches Canada takes considers their views.

Draft biodiversity goals for Canada, set out in Goals A-D and targets under each of those goals, are contained within the document "Toward 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada: Status and Next Steps, FPT Biodiversity Working Group, January 2013". It was noted that Raymond Laliberte is the MNC's appointee to the National Aboriginal Committee on Species at Risk (NACOSAR), and that Co-Chair Hodgson-Smith supports that appointment with policy development work. Co-Chair Hodgson-Smith discussed the prior involvement of NWAC in NACOSAR, and encouraged conversation on whether Aboriginal women's groups should push for a greater role for women on NACOSAR.

Co-Chair Hodgson-Smith discussed Traditional Knowledge (TK) engagement, noting that Canada is in the process of negotiating a treaty on the Protection of TK. To this end, she is preparing a proposal to engage WMN to attend upcoming international meetings in Montreal, which is where the Convention Secretariat is located. Canada is identifying indicators and talking about what to protect and how; and is noticing the tight link between TK and cultural heritage. However, this work does not reflect that TK is an ongoing, evolving and living thing. This speaks to the need to start articulating Metis ways and what needs to be protected. It was suggested that the WMN could start to frame that discussion, which is linked to culture.

Co-Chair Hodgson-Smith commented on the commercialization aspects of TK. If there is a benefit to TK, how is that benefit coming back to the community? This is a question to be posed before transfer of TK, not after. It also speaks to the need for disclosure obligations for patents and looking at intellectual property protection. The lack of case law on the collective right to TK was noted.

Delegates were encouraged to connect with the MNC's Environment Committee members on these important issues going forward.

In discussion delegates' commented on:

- Concern that some communities have shared TK with industry and government for the purpose of protection, however, that TK could be exploited
- People are beginning to understand that there is a need for change in how TK is handled
- If you think of TK as an artefact, you would treat it very differently than if it was seen as a living, growing, changing thing
- Need for Metis to value – with a dollar figure value – the Metis TK and wisdom
- When someone is interviewed on TK they have to consent as to who the TK is being gathered by and for what purpose
- Provincial and federal governments are gathering data, which the Metis want access to so that Metis can analyse it
- If the gatherer did not pay proper value for TK, then it is an improper contract
- Concern regarding the lack of capacity for organizations to deal with these issues
- Importance of owning the data when involved in a TK or heritage study

- Right and responsibility to own and take care of Metis TK
- Women are the keepers of Metis culture and heritage, and need to find the mechanisms and infrastructure to keep that knowledge, and to protect the knowledge for the generations to come.

ADJOURNMENT

Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak Women of the Métis Nation Annual General Meeting held March 16-17, 2013 adjourned on Day One – March 16, 2013 at 3:19 p.m. and set the time to reconvene on Day Two – March 17, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. Linda Boudreau Semaganis offered a Closing Prayer.

DAY TWO – MARCH 17, 2013

OPENING PRAYER AND WELCOMING REMARKS

Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak Women of the Métis Nation Annual General Meeting held March 16-17, 2013 reconvened on Day Two – March 17, 2013 at 9:19 a.m. Jo MacQuarrie offered an Opening Prayer.

7. Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak By-Law Review

7.1 Overview of Corporations Canada Transition Guide for Federal Not-For-Profit Corporations

Provided under Tab 10 of the Agenda package: Industry Canada Corporations Canada Transition Guide For Federal Not-For-Profit Corporations step-by-step.

Co-Chair Hodgson-Smith provided an overview of changes to legislation governing Federal Not-For-Profit Corporations. Under the new legislation there are default rules that apply if your bylaws do not address them. She provided an overhead presentation titled “Les Femme Michif Otipemisiwak Revised Bylaws (under new legislation)”, and discussed:

- Membership, noting the possibility to define membership by class in which case some members would have a voting share and others would have non-voting shares
- Election of Directors, and the default rule that members elect directors
- Removal of Directors, and the default rule that directors can be removed by the members, which is not suitable for the WMN’s self-governance framework
- Filling Vacancies, and the default rule that vacancies can be filled by a quorum of directors
- Consensus Decision-Making, although voting can be replaced with this, it is not recommended given the size of the corporation
- Conflict of Interest Policy, which speaks to protection against liability as long as you work in good faith and in accordance with legislation and the bylaws
- Consent is Deemed, the default rule is that if you attended a meeting but did not state that you do not consent or if you do not attend the meeting and do not state that you do not consent, you are deemed to have consented
- Offences and Punishment, breeches of the legislation include imprisonment
- Criminal Liability and Punishment, and Due Diligence Defence.

Co-Chair Hodgson-Smith presented the proposed resolution to redraft the bylaws, with particular attention to classes of membership, and specifying the notice provisions. Delegates were referred to page 29 in the Transition Guide’s model bylaws, Section 2 – Membership – Matters Requiring Special Resolution, noting that effort would be made to closely emulate the model in order to expedite approval of the bylaws.

ADOPTED

It was MOVED (Sharon McBride, ON) and SECONDED (Clara Dal Col, BC)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) redraft its bylaws to conform to the Canada Not for Profit Act and the goals and aspirations of the WMN for consideration at the next Annual General Meeting. The WMN shall explore various classes of membership and notice provisions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-01)

7.2 Proposed By-Law Amendments

Provided under Tab 9 of the Agenda package: Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak Bylaws.

It was MOVED (Karen Nagao, BC) and SECONDED (Sharon McBride, ON)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) amend the WMN's bylaws by replacing Article 6(a), with "The Board shall consist of a minimum of five (5) Directors, which shall be comprised of the National President and the five (5) Provincial Spokespersons".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-02)

It was MOVED (Sharon McBride, ON) and SECONDED (Susie Hooper, BC)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation continue to develop a Dispute Resolution mechanism for the organization.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-03)

Agenda Varied

As previously noted, the order of the Agenda was varied to consider Item 4 and sub-items 4.1 and 4.2 as this point.

4. Financial Report

4.1 2011-2012 Audited Financial Statements

Provided under Tab 8 of the Agenda package: Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (O/A Women of the Metis Nation) Financial Statements Year Ended March 31, 2012, prepared by Andrews & Co. Chartered Accountants.

Greg Mullan, Andrews & Co. Chartered Accountants, led a review of the Financial Statements, noting:

- Management Responsibility Statement is a standard letter and contains no special wording
- Independent Auditor's Report, aside from a small qualification relating to the WMN's practice of expensing some capital asset purchases in the year of acquisition to the specific programs to which it relates, received an unqualified opinion for the year
- Notes to the Financial Statements are largely standardized
- Supplementals outline the funding as required by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)
- Staff was very cooperative during the audit process; and controls seem to be in order and working appropriately.

In response to questions, WMN President Omeniho indicated that the majority of consulting fees in the prior fiscal went to the company hired to do the economic development report, and for the development of the brochure, website, etc. AANDC provided the year's funding six weeks prior to the end of the fiscal, which forced the WMN to use external consultants in order

ADOPTED

to complete the work in such a short timeframe. The WMN now has a multi-year funding agreement and will be able to hire staff and develop internal capacity. However, some consulting fees will be incurred in development of the strategic plan, as required by AANDC.

It was MOVED (Sharon McBride, ON) and SECONDED (Annette Maurice, BC)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation accept as presented the Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (O/A Women of the Metis Nation) Financial Statements Year Ended March 31, 2012, prepared by Andrews & Co. Chartered Accountants.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-04)

4.2 Approval of the Auditor for 2013-2014

It was MOVED (Sharon McBride, ON) and SECONDED (Monell Bailey, SK)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation appoint Andrews & Co. as the organization's Auditors for the next fiscal year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-05)

8. Strategic Planning and Priorities

Provided on-table worksheets: Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak Women of the Metis Nation – Building Our Strategic Plan paper stating the Mission, and with tables on Areas of Focus #1 - #4.

Marc LeClair, LeClair Infocom, reviewed the WMN Mission statement:

Working to ensure that Metis women from across the homeland are empowered and engaged in carrying out the objectives and priorities. They will be engaged in working with the various governments and Metis leaders to build a strong nation.

Mr. LeClair reviewed Goals #1 - #4, which were identified in the prior year's strategic planning session relative to:

- Voice, Culture, Language, Traditional Knowledge and Communications
- Governance, Capacity and Organizational Development
- Health, Education and Economic Development
- Social and Justice.

Participants were divided into four groups, which circulated to provide feedback on four worksheets on Goals, Priorities, Activities, and Roles. It was noted that the feedback gathered would be incorporated into the WMN Strategic Plan, which would then be sent to the delegates for further consideration.

9. Other Business

9.1 Resolutions

9.1.1 Greater Engagement of Metis Women

It was MOVED (Sara Loutitt, AB) and SECONDED (Linda Boudreau Semaganis, AB)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation supports the greater engagement of Metis women in issues of biodiversity and the protection and engagement of Metis Traditional Knowledge.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-06)

9.1.2 Violence Against Women Agenda Item

Provided on-table: Hodgson-Smith Law Briefing Note dated March 16, 2003.

It was MOVED (Annette Maurice, BC) and SECONDED (Cindy-Lou New, AB)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) engage in a holistic “safe communities” approach to the Violence Against Aboriginal Women issue, bullying, domestic violence, elder abuse and violent criminal offences, through a Metis-specific cultural approach that emphasizes treatment of the offender and the support for families and victims. The WMN will address intergenerational impacts and support reunification of the family wherever possible.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-07)

9.1.3 Blueprint for the Wellbeing of the Metis Child

Provided on-table: Resolution – Blueprint for the Wellbeing of the Metis Child.

It was MOVED (Sharon McBride, ON) and SECONDED (Monell Bailey, SK)

WHEREAS the Metis Nation hosted a national Metis Child and Wellness Conference on November 4 and 5, 2010 in Winnipeg, Manitoba at which time a *Draft Blueprint for the Wellbeing of the Metis Child* was presented; and

WHEREAS the *Draft Blueprint for the Wellbeing of the Metis Child* provides a framework to guide the efforts of the Metis Nation and federal/provincial governments in developing policies, programs and services to enhance the wellbeing of Metis children over the next 10-year period; and

WHEREAS Governing Members and Metis institutions will implement the *Draft Blueprint for the Wellbeing of the Metis Child* to address Metis child wellbeing within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS the Metis Nation supports a vision that Metis children throughout the homeland experience a life of wellbeing that allows them to live healthy and happy lives, and to fulfill their potential as individuals, members of their family, members of their community, members of the Metis Nation and as Canadians; and

WHEREAS the *Draft Blueprint for the Wellbeing of the Metis Child* is founded on principles to inform decisions and effect policies, programs and services including that: Metis people have an inherent right to self-government and self-determination; the most effective, efficient and accountable way to ensure Metis child wellbeing is to allow the Metis people to exercise jurisdiction over the design and delivery of programs and services related to Metis child wellbeing through government-to-government negotiations; and that Metis children have certain rights affirmed in the United Nation’s *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, to which Canada is signatory; and

WHEREAS the Metis Nation Council (MNC) General Assembly in December 2010 tabled the resolution when presented;

ADOPTED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation support the MNC *Draft Blueprint for the Wellbeing of the Metis Child* inclusive of the highlighted revisions that were made based on feedback at the November 2010 conference, and support the MNC to take efforts to create opportunities for periodic review of progress on the 10-year strategy and for renewal of priorities through national conferences and other means.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-08)

9.1.4 2014 Annual General Meeting

It was MOVED (Susie Hooper, BC) and SECONDED (Barbaranne Wright, ON)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation schedule its next Annual General Meeting to be held in February 2014 in British Columbia.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-09)

9.1.5 Economic Development Framework in Programs and Services

It was MOVED (Colleen Hamelton, SK) and SECONDED (Barbara Toombs, BC)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation incorporate an economic development framework into programs and services carried out by the organization for the long-term benefit of our Metis citizens, including our youth and elders.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-10)

9.1.6 Metis Elders Abuse Awareness Program

Provided on-table: Brochure from Marilyn Lizee, Program Coordinator, "Metis Elder Abuse Awareness Program".

It was MOVED (Marilyn Lizee, AB) and SECONDED (Susie Hooper, BC)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) openly support the Metis Elder Abuse Awareness Program in Alberta.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-11)

CLOSING REMARKS

WMN President Omeniho thanked delegates for their contributions during the AGM. She discussed the importance of youth involvement, and challenged all delegates to increase the participation of youth within their respective regions, and at the following year's AGM.

CONCLUSION

Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak Women of the Métis Nation Annual General Meeting held March 16-17, 2013 concluded on Day Two – March 17, 2013 at 2:40 p.m. Jo MacQuarrie offered a Closing Prayer.

* * * * *

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak Women of the Métis Nation Annual General Meeting held March 16-17, 2013 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption at the Annual General Meeting held April 26-27, 2014.

ATTACHMENTS: List of Voting Delegates in Attendance; List of Additional Information Items Provided; List of Resolutions

ADOPTED



LES FEMMES MICHIF OTIPEMISIWAK WOMEN OF THE MÉTIS NATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 16-17, 2013

DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE

British Columbia

Alicia Fernando
Jackie Finnie
Lee Fraser
Susie Hooper
Annette Maurice
Clara Morin Dal Col
Caren Nagao
Sharon Payou
Debra Tamagi
Barbara Toombs

Alberta

Linda Boudreau Semaganis
Kelsey Bradburn
Beatrice Demetrius
Gloria Laird
Lorelei Lanz
Liona LaPratt
Marilyn Lizee
Sara Loutitt
Cindy-Lou New
Doreen Poitras

Saskatchewan

Lela Arnold
Monelle Bailey
Colleen Hamelton
Joe-Ann Henry
Donna Janvier
Helene Johnson
Angela Poitras
Charlene Westby
Beverley Worsley

Ontario

Bridget Brown
Kelly Camacho
Ellen Craig
Pearl Gabona
Carmen Gravel
Jo MacQuarrie
Sharon McBride
Shirley Lynn Pantuso
Lisa Pigeau
Barbaranne Wright

ADOPTED



LES FEMMES MICHIF OTIPEMISIWAK WOMEN OF THE MÉTIS NATION

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 16-17, 2013**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

1. *Provided under Tab 5 of the Agenda package: Pape Salter Teillet LLP Barristers and Solicitors Plainspeak on the Daniels Case, January 2013.*
2. *Provided under Tab 7 of the Agenda package: Children of the Metis Nation – A Discussion Paper – March 2013.*
3. *Provided under Tab 11 of the Agenda package: Component of Statistics Canada catalogue no. 85-002-X Juristat Article Violent Victimization of Aboriginal women in the Canadian provinces, 2009 by Shannon Brennan, released on 17 May 2011.*
4. *Provided under Tab 12 of the Agenda package: Canadian Press article titled “No consensus made as aboriginal women summit concludes – Cabinet ministers reach no consensus on missing and murdered aboriginal women” posted online November 2, 2012, last updated November 2, 2012.*
5. *Provided under Tab 13 of the Agenda package: Principles for communities and governments when developing and implementing approaches for working on matters pertaining to violence against Aboriginal women and girls, based on Recommendations from the Native Women’s Association of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, distributed to the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, Violence Against Aboriginal Women Sub-Committee, February 2013.*
6. *Also provided in the Agenda package:*
 - *Metis National Council Proclamation of the Decade of the Metis Nation, proclaimed on January 1, 2011, signed by Clement Chartier, QC, President*
 - *Biography of Jo MacQuarrie, Metis Nation of Ontario.*

ADOPTED



LES FEMMES MICHIF OTIPEMISIWAK WOMEN OF THE MÉTIS NATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 16-17, 2013

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS FOR ACTION

It was MOVED (Jackie Finnie, BC) and SECONDED (Helene Johnson, SK)

That the Agenda for the Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak Women of the Métis Nation Annual General Meeting scheduled March 16-17, 2013 be accepted with amendment to add Other Business Items Resolutions, and Metis Elders Abuse Awareness Program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130316-01)

It was MOVED (Sharon McBride, ON) and SECONDED (Clara Morin Dal Col, BC)

That the Minutes of the Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation National Assembly held March 30-31, 2012 be accepted with amendment to correct the misspellings of delegates' names as required.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130316-02)

Request for Action (RFA-AGM130316-01)

It was requested that the WMN look into the possibility of a national inquiry by an independent body to investigate allegations made against the RCMP regarding abuse of Aboriginal women.

It was MOVED (Colleen Hamelton, SK) and SECONDED (Gloria Laird, AB)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation receive for information the on-table President's Annual Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130316-03)

It was MOVED (Sharon McBride, ON) and SECONDED (Clara Dal Col, BC)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) redraft its bylaws to conform to the Canada Not for Profit Act and the goals and aspirations of the WMN for consideration at the next Annual General Meeting. The WMN shall explore various classes of membership and notice provisions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-01)

It was MOVED (Karen Nagao, BC) and SECONDED (Sharon McBride, ON)

ADOPTED

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) amend the WMN's bylaws by replacing Article 6(a), with "The Board shall consist of a minimum of five (5) Directors, which shall be comprised of the National President and the five (5) Provincial Spokespersons".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-02)

It was MOVED (Sharon McBride, ON) and SECONDED (Susie Hooper, BC)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation continue to develop a Dispute Resolution mechanism for the organization.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-03)

It was MOVED (Sharon McBride, ON) and SECONDED (Annette Maurice, BC)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation accept as presented the Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (O/A Women of the Metis Nation) Financial Statements Year Ended March 31, 2012, prepared by Andrews & Co. Chartered Accountants.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-04)

It was MOVED (Sharon McBride, ON) and SECONDED (Monell Bailey, SK)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation appoint Andrews & Co. as the organization's Auditors for the next fiscal year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-05)

It was MOVED (Sara Loutitt, AB) and SECONDED (Linda Boudreau Semaganis, AB)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation supports the greater engagement of Metis women in issues of biodiversity and the protection and engagement of Metis Traditional Knowledge.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-06)

It was MOVED (Annette Maurice, BC) and SECONDED (Cindy-Lou New, AB)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) engage in a holistic "safe communities" approach to the Violence Against Aboriginal Women issue, bullying, domestic violence, elder abuse and violent criminal offences, through a Metis-specific cultural approach that emphasizes treatment of the offender and the support for families and victims. The WMN will address intergenerational impacts and support reunification of the family wherever possible.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-07)

It was MOVED (Sharon McBride, ON) and SECONDED (Monell Bailey, SK)

WHEREAS the Metis Nation hosted a national Metis Child and Wellness Conference on November 4 and 5, 2010 in Winnipeg, Manitoba at which time a *Draft Blueprint for the Wellbeing of the Metis Child* was presented; and

WHEREAS the *Draft Blueprint for the Wellbeing of the Metis Child* provides a framework to guide the efforts of the Metis Nation and federal/provincial governments in developing policies, programs and services to enhance the wellbeing of Metis children over the next 10-year period; and

WHEREAS Governing Members and Metis institutions will implement the *Draft Blueprint for the Wellbeing of the Metis Child* to address Metis child wellbeing within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS the Metis Nation supports a vision that Metis children throughout the homeland experience a life of wellbeing that allows them to live healthy and happy lives, and to fulfill their potential as individuals, members of their family, members of their community, members of the Metis Nation and as

Canadians; and

WHEREAS the *Draft Blueprint for the Wellbeing of the Metis Child* is founded on principles to inform decisions and effect policies, programs and services including that: Metis people have an inherent right to self-government and self-determination; the most effective, efficient and accountable way to ensure Metis child wellbeing is to allow the Metis people to exercise jurisdiction over the design and delivery of programs and services related to Metis child wellbeing through government-to-government negotiations; and that Metis children have certain rights affirmed in the United Nation's *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, to which Canada is signatory; and

WHEREAS the Metis Nation Council (MNC) General Assembly in December 2010 tabled the resolution when presented;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation support the MNC *Draft Blueprint for the Wellbeing of the Metis Child* inclusive of the highlighted revisions that were made based on feedback at the November 2010 conference, and support the MNC to take efforts to create opportunities for periodic review of progress on the 10-year strategy and for renewal of priorities through national conferences and other means.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-08)

It was MOVED (Susie Hooper, BC) and SECONDED (Barbaranne Wright, ON)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation schedule its next Annual General Meeting to be held in February 2014 in British Columbia.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-09)

It was MOVED (Colleen Hamelton, SK) and SECONDED (Barbara Toombs, BC)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation incorporate an economic development framework into programs and services carried out by the organization for the long-term benefit of our Metis citizens, including our youth and elders.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-10)

It was MOVED (Marilyn Lizee, AB) and SECONDED (Susie Hooper, BC)

That Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak: Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) openly support the Metis Elder Abuse Awareness Program in Alberta.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGM130317-11)