



Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council



¹The Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council Terms of Reference

1. Our Statement of Purpose

Advance a democratic, mandated and self-sufficient MNOWC to promote the interests and aspirations of all women citizens of the MNO.

We will do that by:

- Encouraging the full participation of all Métis women.
- Advocating for Métis women, insight, and participation to ensure successful women's programming across the province.
- Promoting the history, values, culture, languages and traditions of the Métis Nation.
- Promoting spiritual, cultural, mental and wellness physical wellness of Métis women.
- Ensuring Métis women maintain their role in the continuation of our strong Métis Nation.

The MNOWC will promote and advocate: Métis women's rights, agendas, health, women's leadership; education; Métis culture and heritage; Children/family/communities.

Definition of women

The MNOWC has an inclusive understanding of woman. Women experience their lives differently based on their culture, home life, region, age, gender/gender identity, sexual identity, religion, education, and many other factors. The MNOWC values each woman's experience and seeks to create a respectful space that includes Two-Spirited, Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, and Inter-Sex (2SLGBTQ) women.

2. Structure of the MNOWC

2.1. Number of Representatives

1. The MNOWC will consist of the ²Elected President ³ and 9 Elected Regional Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council Representatives.
2. If seeking to be a Candidate for Regional Women's Representatives is Ordinarily Resident in the Region for which he or she seeks to be nominated.



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3. If seeking to be a Candidate for ⁴President is Ordinarily Resident in Ontario for the term of office.
4. Only MNO Women's citizens can stand for office in the MNOWC.
5. The Council of 10 MNOWC will consist of 1 ⁵ President and 9 Council members and will be elected by the women citizens of the MNO for a term of 4 years. These elections will be held at the MNO Annual General Assembly following the PCMNO elections either by mail-in or electronic voting, whichever is most cost effective.

3. Vacancy of Committee Positions

- 3.1 As per MNO By-Law 10 ⁶

4. Meetings of the MNOWC

- 4.1 The committee members of the MNOWC will meet not less than once per quarter plus one Annual General Meeting, to be held at the same time and place as the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly.
- 4.2 The meetings of the MNOWC will be chaired by the ⁷ MNOWC ⁸President
- 4.3 All meetings of the MNOWC shall be held in the most financially responsible manner possible. This may be through conference call, internet conferencing or face-to-face.
- 4.4 At every Annual General Meeting in addition to any other business that may be transacted the report of the ⁹council members, a financial statement shall be presented. The members may consider and transact any business at any meeting of the members.

5. Quorum and Voting

- 5.1 Five member of the MNOWC constitute a quorum.
- 5.2 All decisions will strive to be reached by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached the decision will go to a vote, simple majority rules.
- 5.3 Each committee member will have one vote.

6. MNOWC Signatories



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- 6.1 Contracts, documents or any instrument in writing requiring the signature of the MNOWC shall be signed by the ¹⁰ MNOWC ¹¹President and one other signing officer of the MNO.
- 6.2 All contracts and documents and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon the MNOWC without any further authorization of formality.
- 6.3 Signing officers for the MNOWC are the President, the Treasurer and an another member of the MNOWC.

7. Roles and Responsibilities of Members of MNOWC

- 7.1 The representatives of the MNOWC will work towards the vision, mandate, purpose and objectives of the MNOWC as determined in these Terms of Reference.
- 7.2 The MNOWC members will work on issues that affect the provincial perspective of women citizens of the MNO.
- 7.3 The ¹² MNOWC ¹³ members, working in conjunction with the MNO Community Council Women's Representatives will work with and support the women citizens of the MNO in the Province to carry their voice at all MNOWC Meetings and General Assemblies.
- 7.4 The role of the ¹⁴ MNOWC ¹⁵ President for Métis Women, will be to oversee and guide the MNOWC towards accomplishing their mandate. It will also be the responsibility of the ¹⁶ MNOWC ¹⁷ to report to the PCMNO when requested.
- 7.5 ¹⁸The ¹⁹ MNOWC ²⁰ President for Métis Women shall be the chief spokesperson for the MNOWC and shall represent the MNOWC on the Board of Governors of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak.

8. Resignations

- 8.1 If an MNOWC member resigns before the end of her term, an on-line process will occur in a region to secure her replacement.
- 8.2 The process will include a call out to the region for nominations and a letter of interest from the candidate. A process will be developed to ensure that all women who are recognized as MNO citizens in that region can vote.



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- 8.3 In an election year (prior to the AGA), the election of that regional representative will wait until the AGA.

9. Reimbursement of Expenditures

- 9.1 As per MNO Policies.

10. Accountability of the MNOWC

- 10.1 The ²¹MNOWC ²²President will report the progress of the MNOWC to the PCMNO ²³as requested.
- 10.2 The MNOWC President on behalf of the MNOWC will present an annual report to Ontario Métis women citizens at the AGA through the presentation of the AGA report.

11. Changes, Additions or Deletions to the Terms of Reference of the MNOWC

- 11.1 All changes to this document titled Terms of Reference of the MNOWC must be approved at a MNOWC Annual General Meeting by a majority. Historical changes to the Terms of Reference will be documented in an Appendix to the Terms of Reference.

12. Adoption of Terms of Reference

The adoption of these Terms of Reference MNOWC was:

Signature on behalf of the MNOWC

Date



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Appendix A – History of the Changes to the MNOWC Terms of Reference

¹ Name amended August 17, 2017 by MNOWC AGA in Kenora previously read WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO - all notes in this Terms of Reference have been updated to reflect the name change

² Amended August 17, 2017 removed MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women and Elected 4 Committee Members.

³ Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

⁴ Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

⁵ Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

⁶ Amended August 22, 2014 at the WSMNO AGA in Thunder Bay deleted A Committee position will be considered vacated:

- a) if a committee member has resigned the position by delivering a written resignation to the committee;
- b) if she is found by a court to be of unsound mind;
- c) if at a meeting of the annual general assembly, a resolution is passed by a majority of the citizens present at the meeting that she be removed from office;
- d) on death;
- e) on missing three (3) consecutive committee meetings without good reason;
- f) where the PCMNO determines that the committee member holds or takes a position on the another committee and where by reason of holding the two positions the committee member may be placed in a conflict of interest;
- g) where the PCMNO determines that a committee member is not entitled to be registered as a citizen of MNO pursuant to MNO By-Law 2.3;
- h) is convicted of an indictable offence; or
- i) has been found guilty, in connection with an election, of corrupt practice, accepting a bribe, dishonesty or malfeasance.

⁷ Amended August 17, 2017 - deleted MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women

⁸ Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

⁹ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted secretariat

¹⁰ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women

¹¹ Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

¹² Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary

¹³ Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

¹⁴ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary

¹⁵ Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

¹⁶ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary for Métis Women, to represent the WSMNO on the PCMNO and to report to the PCMNO the goings on of the WSMNO

¹⁷ Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

¹⁸ Amended August 22, 2014 added The MNOWC Spokesperson for Métis Women shall be the chief spokesperson for the MNOWC and shall represent the MNOWC on the Board of Governors of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak

¹⁹ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary

²² Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

²¹ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted MNO Provincial Secretary

²² Amended August 22, 2019 replace Spokesperson to President

²³ Amended August 17, 2017 deleted at each of their meetings