

## **Extracted from Minutes of 2014 Annual General Assembly of the Manitoba Metis Federation – November 16, 2014**

### **Resolution #2**

#### **Manitoba Métis Community and Membership Application**

**WHEREAS** for two centuries the Manitoba Métis Community has protected its rights and asserted its identity with struggles in the courts and on the fields of conflict, including the 1816 unveiling of the Métis National Flag and the Battle of Seven Oaks and later the 1849 Sayer Trial, the 1869 Red River Resistance, and the 1885 Battle of Batoche;

**AND WHEREAS** In 1870 the Manitoba Métis Community became the Founders of Manitoba and Canada's Negotiating Partners in Confederation and, subsequently, having not received the solemn constitutional promise of children's lands in exchange for laying down our arms, our Ancestors faced a Reign of Terror, and many were dispersed throughout our traditional territories, and beyond, in search of peace and security;

**AND WHEREAS** the Manitoba Métis Community comprises Métis Citizens, both adults and their children, settlements also known as local communities, and traditional territories, and is defined by a common identity, culture, history and, among other things, social and kinship relationships;

**AND WHEREAS** the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Constitution states that the Manitoba Métis Community is a part of the Métis Nation, and that the MMF has been created to be the democratic and self-governing representative body of the Manitoba Métis Community;

**AND WHEREAS** the United Nations 2007 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own membership (Citizenship) in accordance with their own traditions, and have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation with their own members (Citizens) across borders;

**AND WHEREAS** the Delegates of the 2012 Annual General Assembly passed Resolution No. 1 directing the Board of Directors to consider defining residence to allow for an applicant who qualifies for membership to apply for membership in a Region where they do not reside but based on their kinship and roots;

**AND WHEREAS** the Delegates of this 2014 Annual General Assembly refuse to allow the Manitoba Métis Community to be defined by boundaries which are not Métis-made, nor of Métis-choosing, and which arbitrarily and artificially divide the Manitoba Métis Community, its citizens, settlements, and traditional territories, and therefore declare it is not necessary to be a resident of Manitoba to be a Citizen of the Manitoba Métis Community.

#### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The preamble text of the MMF Constitution, which reads as follows:

**WHEREAS** the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. comprises members from the local communities and the various regions of Manitoba.

be deleted and the following enacted in its place:

**WHEREAS** the Manitoba Métis Community comprises Métis Citizens, settlements also known as local communities, and traditional territories, and is defined by a common identity, culture, history and, among other things, social and kinship relationships;

**ALSO BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Article III 2. b. of the MMF Constitution which reads as follows:

Article III MEMBERSHIP

2. APPLICATION PROCESS

b. Applications for membership shall be made in a form established from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors and shall be submitted to the "local" of the Manitoba Metis Federation in which the applicant resides. For the purposes of this article "residence" shall bear the meaning established by resolution of the Board of Directors.

be deleted and the following enacted in its place:

Article III MEMBERSHIP

2. APPLICATION PROCESS

b. Applications for membership (also referred to as Citizenship) shall be made in a form established from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors. Consistent with demonstrating Citizenship in the Manitoba Métis Community, the application shall be submitted to the "Local" of the Manitoba Metis Federation, or to the "Local" in care of Regional Office, which represents the:

- i. Birthplace of the applicant; or,
  - ii. Childhood residence or current residence of the applicant;
- or,
- iii. Place in which the applicant has a direct ancestral connection as evidenced by a genealogy including supporting evidentiary documents.

For the purposes of this Article "residence," and "direct ancestral connection" shall bear the meaning established by resolution of the Board of Directors.

**ALSO BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Article III 4. a. of the MMF Constitution which reads as follows:

a. INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

Any person who is Métis and who is 18 years of age is entitled to membership in the MMF.

be deleted and the following enacted in its place:

a. INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

Any person who is Métis, a Citizen of the Manitoba Métis Community, and who is 18 years of age is entitled to be an Individual Member (also referred to as a "voting Citizen") of the MMF.

**AND FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Article III 4. d. of the MMF Constitution which reads as follows:

d. CHILDREN

"Children" includes all natural or adopted children, whether legitimate or illegitimate under Canadian law. Children (under the age of 18 years) of individual members shall be entitled to the benefits of the services of the organization and to such other benefits as shall be determined by resolution of the Board.

be deleted and the following enacted in its place:

"Children" includes all natural or adopted children, whether legitimate or illegitimate under Canadian law. Children (under the age of 18 years) of individual members (also referred to as "voting Citizens"), and

who are Métis and Citizens of the Manitoba Métis Community, shall be entitled to the benefits of the services of the organization and to such other benefits as shall be determined by resolution of the Board.

Moved by: Minister Claire Riddle, Winnipeg Region

Seconded by: Minister Anita Campbell, Infinity Women's Secretariat

Carried Unanimously