



Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
Voice of the People – Constitutional Reform Consultations – Summer 2023

Existing	Proposed	Explanation
	Preamble <i>[in development]</i>	
<p>Article 1: Name of Organization 1. The organization shall be known as the “Métis Nation-Saskatchewan”.</p>	TITLE Article 1: Title 1. This Constitution may be referred to as the <i>Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Constitution</i> .	<p>The Constitution is the constitution for the Métis Nation and not for the non-profit organization that had been established for practical purposes under provincial legislation prior to the signing of the MN-S Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement 2.0. All references to “organization” in the Constitution are removed.</p>
<p>Article 10: Citizenship 1. DEFINITION a) Métis means a person, who self identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry and is accepted by the Métis Nation. b) “Historic Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal peoples then known as Métis or Half-breeds who resided in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CITIZENSHIP, LANGUAGE AND LAND</p> <p>Article 2: Citizenship 1. Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of Historic Métis Nation ancestry and is accepted by the Métis Nation. 2. In this Article: (a) “Historic Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people then known as Métis or Half-breeds who resided in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland;</p>	<p>Article 10 of the existing constitution uses the term “membership” because provincial non-profit legislation refers to persons who are members. “Citizenship” refers to those persons who comprise the Métis Nation.</p> <p>Article 2-1 as proposed includes the list of the criteria to be met for persons to be recognized as Métis and thus entitled to be registered as citizens under the <i>Citizenship Act</i>.</p>



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<p>c) “Historic Métis Nation Homeland” means the area of west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-breeds as they were known.</p> <p>d) Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation which is now comprised of all Métis Nation citizens and is one of the “aboriginal peoples of Canada” within the meaning of s 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.</p> <p>e) “Distinct from other Aboriginal peoples” means distinct for culture and nationhood purposes.</p>	<p>(b) “Historic Métis Nation Homeland” means the area of west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-breeds as they were known;</p> <p>(c) Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation which is now comprised of all Métis Nation citizens and is one of the “aboriginal peoples of Canada” within the meaning of section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> (Canada);</p> <p>(d) “distinct from other Aboriginal peoples” means distinct for culture and nationhood purposes;</p>	<p>The definition of “Métis” in Article 2-1 contains those key criteria: historic Métis ancestry living in the Historic Métis Homeland, identification as Métis distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, and acceptance. The definitions in Article 2-2 explain the key terms used in defining who is Métis.</p> <p>These rules are contained in the Constitution since they are fundamental principles that should require the consent of a special resolution of the MNLA and ratification by the General Assembly if they were to be changed.</p> <p>Details about the process of application for registration as a citizen and rights of appeal if refused are set out in the <i>Citizenship Act</i>.</p>
<p>2. Any Métis who is a member of a duly registered Local is a member of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>deleted</p>	<p>Registration as a Métis citizen is not tied to membership in a Local. This provision is deleted to ensure that only persons who are Métis as defined above can be registered as citizens of the MN-S.</p>



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<p>3. a) A member shall only belong to 1 Local. a) [sic] A person shall reside in the Local area for at least 6 months before he/she is eligible for membership in the Local. The Locals may make exceptions for educational and medicinal purposes. b) A member of a Local must be ordinarily resident in the community where the Local is situated in order to retain membership in the Local, otherwise, the member must transfer his/her membership within 6 months to the Local in the community to which he/she has relocated. c) In communities where no Locals exist, Métis persons shall apply to the Local nearest their residence.</p>	<p>moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA</p>	<p>These provisions do not relate to citizenship but rather to attachment to a Local and the ability to vote. These details will be the subject of recommendations from the Locals Commission, but in any event are details that would be included in MN-S legislation, such as a <i>Locals Act</i> or the <i>Election Act</i>.</p>



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<p>4. Members shall be issued a membership card.</p> <p>a) This card shall provide a life-time membership in the Organization</p> <p>b) There shall be no fee for membership cards</p> <p>c) repealed</p> <p>d) Membership cards shall be issued by the President of [or?] of a duly registered Local upon completion of the designated form.</p>	<p>deleted</p>	<p>The issuance of citizenship cards or other methods of proof of citizenship is dealt with under the <i>Citizenship Act</i>.</p>
<p>5. Repealed 2008</p>		<p>Previously repealed</p>
<p>6. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall enact, on a priority basis, a Métis Citizenship Act.</p>	<p>deleted</p>	<p>This provision is no longer required, as a <i>Citizenship Act</i> is in place.</p>
<p>none</p>	<p>Article 3: Language</p> <p>1. Michif, Cree, Dene and English are the official languages of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.</p> <p>2. Legislation of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly must be enacted in English, which is the authoritative version, and may be translated into Michif, Cree and Dene.</p>	<p>These are new provisions to state that Michif, Cree, Dene and English are all official languages of the MN-S but to clarify that legislation must be enacted in English since not all Métis citizens are fluent in other languages.</p>



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none	<p>Article 4: Land</p> <p>1. The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan asserts a right to land on behalf of Métis citizens in Saskatchewan and works to preserve and protect that right as the foundation for Métis self-government within Saskatchewan and the protection of Métis language and culture.</p>	<p>This provision is added to stress the right o Métis citizens to land and its importance to strengthening self-government, and the protection of Métis language and culture.</p>
<p>Article 7: Locals</p> <p>1. The Locals shall be the basic unit of the Organization in each community.</p>	<p align="center">GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE</p> <p>Article 5: Locals</p> <p>1. The Locals are the basic unit of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>Because the Local is described as the basic unit of the MN-S it is placed first in the Constitution and represents a visual “bottom up” description of governance, rather than starting with the MNLA, which looks more like “top down”. The Constitution will continue to contain requirements relating to Locals and other provisions providing details in relation to Locals will be contained in a proposed <i>Locals Act</i>.</p> <p>The provisions relating to Locals to be included in the Constitution may be affected by conclusions reached after the Local Commissioner makes his final report and</p>



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		therefore no specific proposals are made at this time.
2. The Locals shall be made up of at least nine members.	To be determined (TBD)	There is no proposal at this time as we are awaiting the recommendations of the Locals Commission.
3. New Locals can be admitted by the Regional Council provided this decision is ratified by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and the requirements herein are met.	TBD	There is no proposal at this time as we are awaiting the recommendations of the Locals Commission.
4. Locals can be dissolved by the Regional Councils provided this decision is ratified by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and the requirements herein are no longer met.	TBD	There is no proposal at this time as we are awaiting the recommendations of the Locals Commission.
5. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall adopt rules pertaining to the admission and dissolution of locals.	TBD	There is no proposal at this time as we are awaiting the recommendations of the Locals Commission.
6. Each Local shall be governed by an elected leadership as determined through the Constitution of the Local, which may include	TBD	There is no proposal at this time as we are awaiting the recommendations of the Locals Commission.



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<p>terms of one to three years and elections may be by ballot box or conducted at a General Assembly of the Local membership.</p> <p>a) Each Local shall submit the names of their elected leadership to the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Head Office within 30 days of their election.</p> <p>8. Each Local shall enact a Constitution which is not inconsistent with this Constitution, including the establishment of portfolios, committees or other bodies required to address community and other issues, and such Local Constitution shall be registered with the Regional and Head Office of the Organization.</p>		
<p>6. Each Local shall be governed by an elected leadership as determined through the Constitution of the Local, which may include terms of one to three years and elections may be by ballot box or conducted at a General Assembly of the Local membership.</p> <p>a) Each Local shall submit the names of their elected leadership to the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Head</p>	TBD	There is no proposal at this time as we are awaiting the recommendations of the Locals Commission.



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Office within 30 days of their election.		
7. Any Métis who is 16 years of age or over and is a member of the Local shall be entitled to vote or seek office.	moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA	Entitlement to vote is or will be contained in the <i>Election Act</i> in relation to province-wide votes and/or in legislation enacted by the MNLA relating to Locals.
9. The Locals shall provide yearly updates of their membership to the Regional and Head Office, separating those members who re under 16 years of age from those 16 and over.	deleted	The requirement for Locals to submit membership lists predates the central registration of Métis citizens and is no longer required.
10. The Locals shall be responsible to prepare the Communities for the assumption of Métis self-government, which includes land, where this is an objective.	deleted	This Constitution is part of the process of the implementation of self-government. Going forward, the function of the Locals is not to <u>prepare</u> communities for self-government but to actually <u>implement</u> self-government.
11. The Locals may incorporate with the appropriate government department.	moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA	Locals as institutions within the structure of Métis government should not be incorporated under the laws of other external governments. They can be created as MN-S statutory corporations under legislation enacted by the MNLA, either



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		directly in a proposed <i>Locals Act</i> or through general incorporation legislation. Provincial incorporation would continue until appropriate and recognized MNLA legislation is enacted.
12. The Locals may seek necessary finances and resources to carry out their programs, services and objectives and where so requested the Provincial Métis Council of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall assist in securing these necessary finances and resources.	moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA	The specific authority of Locals to seek funding will be contained in a proposed <i>Locals Act</i> .
Article 5: Regions 1. There shall be 12 Regions as set out in Schedule A of this Constitution.	Article 6: Regions 1. TBD	The Constitution will continue to contain requirements relating to Regions and other provisions providing details in relation to Locals will be contained in a proposed <i>Regions Act</i> . There is no proposal with respect to the number of regions or their boundaries at this time as we are awaiting the recommendations of the Locals Commission.



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<p>6. The Regional Council shall enact a Constitution which is not inconsistent with this constitution and such Regional Constitutions shall be registered with the Head Office.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>The Constitution will not mandate the adoption of constitutions by Regions, as there needs to be flexibility provided to the MNLA in enacting a proposed <i>Regions Act</i> and providing for consistent rules to be applicable.</p>
<p>2. The Regions shall be governed by a Regional Council composed of the Presidents of the Locals within the respective Regions along with a regionally elected representative who shall be the Chairperson of the Regional Council, as well as the Region’s representative on the Provincial Métis Council of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.</p>	<p>2. Each Region is governed by a Regional Council that is composed of the Presidents of the Locals situated in the Region and the following members who are elected at each Métis general election to hold office for a term of four years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a Métis woman to represent Métis women in the region, who is elected by Métis citizens in the region who are women; (b) a Métis youth, being a Métis citizen between the ages of 16 and 29, to represent the Métis youth in the region, who is elected by Métis citizens in the region who are also youths of that age; and (c) a Regional Representative elected by all Métis citizens in the Region. 	<p>The Regional Representative is elected by all citizens of voting age in the Region at each Métis general election held every four years. These elections are addressed in the <i>Election Act</i>. The role of the Regional Representative is outlined in a separate provision below.</p> <p>In addition, a woman and a youth representative in each region, who are elected only by the women and youth in the region, would also be elected every four years. Election details would be contained in the <i>Election Act</i>.</p>



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	3. The Regional Representative is the chair of the Regional Council and the Region’s representative on the Provincial Métis Council and the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.	
11. Where a vacancy is created for any reason, including death or resignation, the Regional Council shall elect from the members of the Council an interim Regional representative who shall serve until a by-election has been held and the vacancy filled.	4. If the office of Regional Representative becomes vacant for any reason the remaining members of the Regional Council shall elect from among their number an interim Regional Representative to hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of office.	Because of the significant cost of holding a by-election, the interim regional representative will hold office until the next general election.
4. The Regional Council shall establish regional administrative offices.	moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA	Details relating to regional administrative offices would be contained in a proposed <i>Regions Act</i> .
3. The Regional Council shall have the responsibility of making all appointments to the Institutions and Affiliates at the Regional and Provincial levels. In the event that the Regional Representative is not so appointed, he/she shall be an ex-officio member of all Regional Institutions and Affiliates.	5. The Regional Council is responsible for the management and delivery of any programs or services decentralized to the regional level.	Regional Councils will continue to be responsible for programs and services at the regional level. Specifics of appointments to MN-S institutions and details about the role of Regions in delivering specific programs will be governed by legislation enacted by the MNLA and defined more clearly in a proposed <i>Locals Act</i> and <i>Regions Act</i> .



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5. The Regional Council shall be responsible for programs and services decentralized to that level.		
7. The Regional Council may incorporate with the appropriate government department.	moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA	As institutions within the structure of Métis government, regions should not be incorporated under the laws of other external governments. They can be created as MN-S statutory corporations under legislation enacted by the MNLA, either directly in a proposed <i>Regions Act</i> or through general incorporation legislation. Provincial incorporation would continue until appropriate and recognized MNLA legislation is enacted.
8. The Regional Council may seek necessary finances and resources to carry out their programs, services and objectives and where so requested the Provincial Métis Council shall assist in securing these necessary finances and resources.	moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA	The specific authority of Regions to seek funding will be contained in a proposed <i>Regions Act</i> .
9. The Regional Council shall assist their Local Communities in preparing to assume Métis self-government, which includes land, where this is an objective.	deleted	This Constitution is part of the process of the implementation of self-government. Going forward, the function of the Regions is not to <u>prepare</u> communities for self-government but to actually <u>implement</u> self-government.



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<p>10. The Regional Council shall provide direction to their representatives on the Provincial Métis Council with respect to all matters, including the aims, objectives and aspirations of the Organization and for their respective Regions.</p>	<p>6. The Regional Council shall provide direction to its Regional Representative on the Provincial Métis Council with respect to all matters for its Region.</p>	<p>No substantive change.</p>
<p>Article 4: Executive 1. There shall be 4 Executive members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly who are elected province-wide. 2. The Executive shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. 3. The term of office for the Executive shall be four years.</p>	<p>Article 7: Executive 1. The Executive of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan consists of the President, a First Vice President and a Second Vice President who are elected by all Métis citizens in a province-wide election held every four years.</p>	<p>The Executive is to consist of the President and two Vice Presidents elected in a general election held every four years, rather than a Secretary and Treasurer, which are positions associated with a non-profit corporation. The detailed election process is contained in the <i>Election Act</i>.</p>
<p>4. a) The President of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall be the head of the Executive, and Chief political spokesperson for the Organization.</p>	<p>2. The President is the head of government and the chief political spokesperson for the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>No substantive change.</p>



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<p>b) The President shall assign and recommend portfolios, subject to the approval of the Provincial Métis Council and ratification of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.</p>	<p>3. The President shall assign portfolios to members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, subject to the approval of the Provincial Métis Council and ratification by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.</p>	<p>The restriction on appointments to members of the MNLA is found in Article 2-4 of the current constitution. The restriction is placed here so there is no ambiguity about the power to assign portfolios.</p>
<p>7. Where a vacancy is created for any reason, including death or resignation, the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall elect from the Provincial Métis Council members an interim Executive member who shall serve until a by-election has been held and the vacancy filled.</p>	<p>4. If the office of President is vacated for any reason, the First Vice President shall assume the office of President for the unexpired portion of the term of office.</p> <p>5. If the office of First Vice President is vacated for any reason, the Second Vice President shall assume the office of First Vice President for the unexpired portion of the term of office.</p> <p>6. If the office of Second Vice President is vacated for any reason, the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall elect an interim Vice President from among the members of the Provincial Métis Council for the unexpired portion of the term of office.</p>	<p>The President, the First Vice President and the Second Vice President would be the directly elected members of the Executive. If the office of President becomes vacant, the First Vice President steps into the role and the Second Vice President becomes First Vice President. If the office of First Vice President becomes vacant, the Second Vice President steps into the role of First Vice President. If the office of Second Vice President becomes vacant, a member of the PMC elected by the MNLA will assume the office (and Article 6-4 above provides for filling a vacancy in the office of Regional Representative). In any case, the interim office holder will continue in office for the rest of the term of office.</p>



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5. The Executive of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall meet at least once per month and three members shall constitute a quorum.	moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA	Details about meetings and quorum requirements should be placed in a proposed <i>Executive Government Act</i> and not in the Constitution.
6. The Executive shall provide written reports to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.	moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA	Details about reporting to the MNLA are contained in the <i>Legislative Assembly Act</i> .
<p>Article 3: Provincial Métis Council</p> <p>1. The Provincial Métis Council shall be composed of the elected Regional Representatives, the Executive, one representative from the Métis Women of Saskatchewan and one representative from the Provincial Métis Youth Council for a total of 18 Provincial Métis Council members.</p> <p>(See also current Article 12-2.)</p>	<p>Article 8: Provincial Métis Council</p> <p>1. The Provincial Métis Council is composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Regional Representatives; (b) the members of the Executive; (c) a Métis woman to represent Métis women who is elected by Métis citizens in the province who are women at each Métis general election to hold office for a term of four years; and (d) a Métis youth, being a Métis citizen between the ages of 16 and 29, to represent Métis youth who is elected by Métis citizens in the province who are also youths of that age at each Métis general election to hold office for a term of four years. 	<p>At present, women and youth representatives to the PMC are determined by the Provincial Métis Youth Council and Les Filles de Madelaine, although the current constitution refers to the “Métis Women of Saskatchewan”.</p> <p>In order to address the concern that these representatives should be elected, this proposal would provide for the women and youth reps to PMC to be elected by women and youth in a province-wide vote at each Métis general election. The <i>Election Act</i> would be amended to provide for these elections.</p>



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<p>5. The Provincial Métis Council shall meet at least once every two months.</p> <p>6. Eleven members of the Provincial Métis Council shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p>7. Notice of any meeting of the Provincial Métis Council shall be given at least 7 days prior to such meeting.</p>	<p>moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA</p>	<p>Details about meetings and quorum requirements should be placed in a proposed <i>PMC or Executive Government Act</i> and not in the Constitution.</p>
<p>3. The Provincial Métis Council shall be responsible for ensuring that the affiliates, departments, programs and services covered by their portfolios are running smoothly and have the necessary resources to enable them to operate effectively. In addition, they shall provide a report to each meeting of the Provincial Métis Council and each session of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly or as requested by the President.</p>	<p>2. The Provincial Métis Council is responsible to oversee the departments, programs and services covered by portfolios, to assist them in running smoothly, and to obtain the necessary resources to enable them to operate effectively.</p>	<p>No substantive change with respect to the responsibility of the PMC. The requirements for reporting to the MNLA are included in Article 9 of the <i>Legislative Assembly Act</i>.</p>
<p>4. a) The Provincial Métis Council shall have the authority to appoint Commission, Committees or other subsidiary bodies where these are deemed necessary in order to</p>	<p>3. The Provincial Métis Council may appoint committees or other bodies that it considers necessary to effectively carry out the governance functions of the Métis Nation –</p>	<p>The PMC can appoint entities that are required to carry out government functions.</p>



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<p>effectively carry out the activities and functions of the Organization and Métis Legislative Assembly directives.</p> <p>b) The Provincial Métis Council shall designate persons who may have signing authority for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the Organization, which shall include the Treasurer.</p>	<p>Saskatchewan and the directions of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.</p> <p>moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA</p>	<p>This is a detail that should not be contained in the Constitution but would be included in legislation to be enacted by the MNLA, such as a proposed <i>Financial Administration Act</i>, or regulations made under the authority of such an Act.</p>
<p>8. The Provincial Métis Council shall provide written reports to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.</p>	<p>moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA</p>	<p>Reporting requirements are contained in Article 9 of the MNLA Act.</p>
<p>10. The Provincial Métis Council shall set the date and place for each Métis Nation Legislative Assembly sitting, provided no less than 30 days’ written notice is given to the President of each Local.</p>	<p>moved to proposed Article 9-3 below</p>	<p>The dates for sittings will be set in the Constitution for May and November and at other times on 30 days’ notice from the Clerk.</p>
<p>Article 2: Métis Nation Legislative Assembly</p> <p>1. There shall be a Métis Nation Legislative Assembly which shall be the governing authority of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.</p> <p>2. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly which shall be comprised of the Local</p>	<p>Article 9: Métis Nation Legislative Assembly</p> <p>1. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly is the supreme governing authority of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan and consists of:</p> <p>(a) the members of the Provincial Métis Council;</p>	<p>The MNLA will consist of the President and the two Vice Presidents, all Local Presidents (or Local Vice President if the President is unable to attend a sitting of the MNLA), and all members of the PMC, which will include one representative for women and one for youth. There would also be four additional</p>



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<p>Presidents, the Provincial Métis Council, four representatives of the Métis Women of Saskatchewan and four representatives from the Provincial Métis Youth Council.</p> <p>a) Notwithstanding section 2, the Vice President of a local shall serve as an alternate member of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly in the event that a President is not able to attend.</p>	<p>(b) each Local President, or the Vice President if the President is unable to attend a sitting of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly;</p> <p>(c) four Métis women who are selected by the Métis women representatives elected in each region from among their number; and</p> <p>(d) four Métis youth who are selected by the Métis youth representatives in each region from among their number.</p>	<p>women and youth representatives selected by the regional women and youth representatives from among their number.</p>
<p>13-2. The loyalty of the members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly must be to the Métis People and Nation, and shall swear an Oath of Allegiance prior to taking office.</p>	<p>2. The loyalty of the members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly must be to the Métis People and Nation, and each member shall swear an Oath of Allegiance prior to taking office.</p>	<p>No substantive change.</p>
<p>none</p>	<p>3. The administrative and other support services required for the proper conduct of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly are to be provided by a Clerk of the Assembly appointed by the Provincial Métis Council, whose appointment is ratified by resolution</p>	<p>A Clerk will be appointed by the PMC and the appointment ratified by the MNLA to hold office at the pleasure of the MNLA.</p>



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	<p>of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, to hold office at the pleasure of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.</p>	
<p>6. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall meet at least twice a year.</p> <p>8. Notice of any session of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall require 30 days' notice to the Local President and Provincial Métis Council.</p>	<p>4. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall meet at least twice each year, in May and November, on 30 days' notice by the Clerk of the Assembly to the members of the Assembly, unless due to unforeseen and extenuating circumstances a sitting at a particular time is impossible or impractical.</p> <p>5. A special sitting of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly may be held at any other time on 30 days' notice by the Clerk of the Assembly to the members of the Assembly.</p>	<p>Provides for sittings of the MNLA to be held in May and November each year, unless there are extenuating circumstances that make it impossible for a sitting to occur (eg. election recently held or funding not available) and at other times on 30 days' notice from the Clerk.</p>
<p>7. Seventy-five members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall constitute a quorum.</p>	<p>6. A majority of the members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly present constitutes a quorum.</p>	<p>A majority is the number of members that is more than 50% of the total number of members of the MNLA. Setting the quorum at 75 members is presently almost 70% of the members and is a very high threshold for a quorum.</p>



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<p>3. The Métis Nation [Legislative] Assembly shall have the authority to enact legislation, regulations, rules and resolutions governing the affairs and conduct of the Métis in Saskatchewan.</p> <p>5. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, based upon the recommendation of the Provincial Métis Council shall have the authority to appoint Commissions, Committees or other subsidiary bodies, where these are deemed necessary in order to effectively carry out the activities and functions of the organization. In doing so, the Assembly shall ensure equity of representation from the Youth, Women and Elders.</p>	<p>7. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly has the jurisdiction and authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to govern the affairs and conduct of the Métis in Saskatchewan by adopting resolutions, rules and directives, making proclamations, and enacting legislation in relation to any matter; (b) to establish courts, tribunals or other entities, mechanisms or processes to resolve disputes relating to the interpretation, application or alleged violation of legislation enacted by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly or between Métis citizens; (c) to establish commissions, committees or other bodies to effectively carry out the activities and functions of the Métis Nation and to delegate to them, through legislation, authority to carry out those activities and functions; (d) when appointing persons as members of its commissions, 	<p>The MNLA will have the authority to enact laws of all kinds and provide for their publication as well as to create any types of entities that are necessary to ensure good government and to implement the legislation that is enacted. In particular, the MNLA will be able to establish courts, tribunals or other entities to make decisions about disputes involving Métis laws or Métis citizens.</p>



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation
	committees or other bodies, to seek equity in terms of representation.	
4. The President shall assign and recommend portfolios, subject to the approval of the Provincial Métis Council and ratification by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly. The assignment of portfolios shall be restricted to members of the Métis Legislative Assembly.	moved to proposed Article 7-3 above	The process of signing portfolios is stated in two places in the existing Constitution but is stated differently each time. The proposal for amendment is to state this authority only once in the Article dealing with the Executive and the authority of the President to assign portfolios to members of the MNLA, subject to approval of the PMC and ratification by the MNLA.
9. A person is disqualified from being a member of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly when: a) He/she dies or resigns b) He/she is under 16 years of age.	8. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly may, by resolution supported by 75% of those voting, remove from office a member of the Assembly who is convicted of an offence that is considered by the Assembly to be a serious criminal offence, and the office of that member is thereupon immediately vacated.	It is not necessary to refer to a person who dies or resigns as being disqualified. Persons under 16 are not eligible to run for office pursuant to the <i>Election Act</i> . Any member of the MNLA who is convicted of a serious criminal offence in the opinion of the MNLA can be removed from office by a special resolution of the MNLA.
10. All budgets shall be determined by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, based	moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA	Financial details will be set out in a proposed <i>Financial Administration Act</i> or similar legislation.



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation
upon the recommendation of the Provincial Métis Council.		
11. The delegates to the Métis Nation Assembly of the Métis National Council shall be the Provincial Métis Council and the remainder shall be chosen from amongst the members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, while the President shall form part of the Executive Council of the Métis National Council. This Constitution may be amended to take into account and reflect changes which may take place within the Métis National Council.	deleted	This is the Constitution for the MN-S government and should not contain details relating to other organizations. Provisions relating to the MNC will be contained in other MNLA legislation such as a proposed Executive Government Act or <i>PMC Act</i> or by resolutions.
<p>Article 3: Provincial Métis Council</p> <p>9. Elected Provincial Métis Council members and Presidents should not hold paid positions with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan or any of the Affiliate Board.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CONFLICT OF INTEREST</p> <p>Article 10: Conflicts Prohibited</p> <p>1. No elected member of a Local, a Regional Council, or the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall hold any other paid position with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan or any of its institutions or entities or in any other manner make or participate in making a decision in the execution of the member’s office where the making of the decision</p>	<p>This prohibition prevents elected officials from being employed by the MN-S. Details of declarations of conflicts and procedures when conflicts arise would be set out in legislation. Other conflict rules currently contained in the Executive Handbook would be enforced through procedures established in legislation and decided by the Métis court or tribunal.</p>



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation
	<p>provides an opportunity to further the member’s private interests or the private interests of relatives or other persons with whom the member is closely associated.</p>	
<p>Article 12: Senate, Women and Youth 3. That appointments to vacancies in the Métis Senate be made at area meetings; Further, than Senate appointments be for lifetime or until such time as the Senator is unable to fulfil his/her duties.</p> <p>5. That the Senate be equally represented by male and female.</p>	<p align="center">ELDERS/KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS COUNCIL</p> <p>Article 11: Elders/Knowledge Keepers Council</p> <p>1. An Elders/Knowledge Keepers Council is established consisting of persons who are appointed by resolution of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.</p> <p>2. The role of the Council is advisory and ceremonial.</p> <p>3. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall have regard to equitable gender representation in the Council when making appointments.</p>	<p>There is no Senate currently. The appellate functions originally provided to the Senate will be contained in legislation relating to a Métis court or tribunal. The ceremonial and advisory functions would be provided by a council of Elders/Knowledge Keepers.</p>
<p>Article 15: Amending Formula 1. The Constitution shall only be amended by the majority of three quarters of the</p>	<p align="center">AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION</p> <p>Article 12: Process for Amendment</p> <p>1. This Constitution may only be amended by a resolution of the Métis Nation Legislative</p>	<p>Constitutional amendments require the support of 75% of the votes in the MNLA and in the General Assembly.</p>



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Existing	Proposed	Explanation
<p>members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and ratified by three quarters of the members of the General Assembly.</p> <p>2. All proposed amendments to the Constitution must be registered with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Head Office thirty days prior to the sitting of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly is provided. Where the minimum 30 days notice is provided under Article 2. Section 8. all proposed amendments must be registered 14 days prior to the sitting of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.</p> <p>Article 11: General Assembly</p> <p>1. A General Assembly, composed of members from the Locals shall be convened by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly every year.</p> <p>2. The General Assembly shall provide a forum whereby the members of the Organization will receive information, review documents and provide guidance to the</p>	<p>Assembly adopted by at least 75% of its members who vote and ratified by at least 75% of the members of the General Assembly who vote.</p> <p>2. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall convene a General Assembly composed of all Métis citizens when necessary to ratify amendments to this Constitution.</p>	<p>The process in the MNLA for proposed constitutional amendments is contained in the MNLA Act.</p> <p>A General Assembly would not be convened annually, only when necessary to ratify amendments to the Constitution. Details about holding a General Assembly will be contained in a proposed General Assembly Act.</p>



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<p>Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and discuss, clarify, amend, vote on and ratify amendments to the Constitution.</p>		
<p>ARTICLE 14 AFFILIATES 1 . a) The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, on behalf of the Métis Nation- Saskatchewan, shall exercise all voting rights, powers and duties of ownership in relation to the affiliates, based upon the recommendations of the Provincial Métis Council. a) Where not currently provided all affiliate Articles and By-laws shall be amended at the first reasonable opportunity to conform to this section. 2. The Provincial Métis Council members who are assigned a portfolio shall automatically sit as Chairperson of the Affiliate(s) which falls under his/her portfolio. 3. A member who is an employee/staff person/management of an Affiliate shall not be permitted to sit on any Affiliate Board. 4. All Affiliates shall representation from the twelve (12) Regions of the Organization, unless otherwise decided by the Métis Nation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSITIONAL</p> <p>Article 13: Affiliates continued 1. All Affiliates of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan in existence on the coming into force of this Constitution are continued as Métis Nation – Saskatchewan institutions, subject to any legislation that the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly may enact in relation to them generally or specifically. 2. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, on the recommendation of the Provincial Métis Council, shall exercise all voting rights, powers and duties of ownership in relation to the affiliates.</p>	<p>All Affiliates are continued under the new Constitution but will be subject to any subsequent laws that the MNLA may enact in relation to them.</p>



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<p>Legislative Assembly based upon the recommendations of the Provincial Métis Council</p>		
<p>ARTICLE 14 (A) SECRETARIAT 1 . A Secretariat shall be retained under the "Métis Act" for the sole purpose of carrying out the administrative duties of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. 2. The Secretariat shall be known as the Métis Nations – Saskatchewan Secretariat Incorporated. 3. The Board of Directors of the Secretariat shall be the same members who are elected to the Provincial Métis Council.</p>	<p>moved to legislation enacted by the MNLA</p>	<p>The Secretariat is currently established as a corporate entity under <i>The Métis Act</i>, which is legislation enacted by the Saskatchewan Legislature. The MN-S Treaty-like document, as outlined in the <i>Metis Nation within Saskatchewan Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement</i>, will provide language to assist in continuing the Secretariat under MN-S jurisdiction so that it will no longer be necessary to rely on the provincial legislation and it will not be necessary to refer to Saskatchewan laws in the MN-S Constitution.</p>
<p>Article 6: Urban Councils The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan shall initiate, assist, support, assign, recommend and facilitate the development, implementation and establishment of Métis Urban Self-Government Councils in Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>Article 15: Councils 1. Until the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly adopts legislation relating to councils, the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan shall continue: (a) to initiate, assist, support, assign, recommend and facilitate the development, implementation and establishment of Métis Urban</p>	<p>Provisions relating to urban councils and the North West Council will continue until legislation relating to those matters is adopted by the MNLA.</p>



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<p>Article 6.1: Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Council The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan shall assist, support, recommend and facilitate the Regions forming the North West Saskatchewan Métis Council to develop, establish and implement Métis governance for their Métis communities.</p>	<p>Self-Government Councils in Saskatchewan; and (b) assist, support, recommend and facilitate the Regions forming the North West Saskatchewan Métis Council to develop, establish and implement Métis governance for their Métis communities.</p>	
<p>Article 16: Implementation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMING INTO FORCE</p> <p>Article 16: Implementation Not included at this time.</p>	<p>Implementation or coming into force of changes to the constitution could be tied to the implementation legislation or could come into force immediately that they are adopted.</p>
<p>Article 13: Métis Independence</p> <p>1. Whereas the Métis are seeking self-government as a third order of government within Canada, the Organization shall be non-secretariat and non-partisan.</p> <p>3. The leadership shall be responsible and accountable to the Communities, as reflected by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, which is the Supreme Body for the Metis within Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>Not included</p>	<p>1. The reference to “non-secretariat” is probably meant to be “non-sectarian”, but this provision is no longer necessary since self-government is now a reality.</p> <p>3. The responsibility of leadership to communities is reflected in all of the provisions establishing the governance structure, but this statement could also be included in the preamble.</p>



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<p>4. Members of the Organization are not precluded from joining political parties of the two other orders of government, being the federal and provincial levels of government.</p> <p>5. Any Provincial Métis Council member of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly who chooses to seek the nomination of any provincial or federal political party in any provincial or federal election shall take a leave of absence from his/her position.</p>		<p>4 and 5. These provisions would be placed in legislation to be enacted by the MNLA</p>
<p>Article 17: Special Election for 2007</p>	<p>Not included</p>	<p>No longer applicable.</p>

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