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for discussion purposes

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**Métis Nation – Saskatchewan**

**An Act respecting the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and the General Assembly of Citizens of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan**

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**The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, in accordance with the authority granted to it by the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan through its Constitution, enacts as follows:**

**PART I  
GENERAL**

**Short title**

**1** This Act may be cited as the *Assemblies Act*.

**Definitions**

**2** In this Act:

“affiliate” means those organizations and structures established by the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan to provide programs and services to and on behalf of the Métis of Saskatchewan;

“Constitution” means the *Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Constitution*;

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“Deputy Speaker” means the Deputy Speaker of the MNLA appointed pursuant to section 3;

“Executive” mean the Executive members described in the Constitution;

"General Assembly" means the meeting of the General Assembly of MN-S Citizens as set out in the Constitution;

"Local" means a Local as described in the Constitution;

“MNLA” means the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly provided for in the Constitution;

“MN-S Citizen” means a Métis person who is registered in the registry as a citizen of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan;

“MN-S Judicial Body” means the Judicial Body established pursuant to the *Kwayaskastasowin Judiciary Act*;

"Order of the Day" means the compilation of documentation for members of the MNLA that includes the agenda, reports, minutes, and draft resolutions, legislation, and constitutional amendments that are to be tabled at a sitting of the MNLA;

“PMC” means the Provincial Métis Council provided for in the Constitution;

“Regional Representative” means the representative elected in each Region to serve on the PMC as provided for in the Constitution;

"Speaker" means the Speaker of the MNLA appointed pursuant to section 3.

## PART II

### MÉTIS NATION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

#### **Speaker and Deputy Speaker**

**3(1)** The PMC shall, by resolution, appoint a Speaker and Deputy Speaker to hold office for a term of two years and until their successors are appointed.

(2) The appointments of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker are effective on ratification by resolution of the MNLA.

(3) Any person who is an MN-S Citizen is eligible to be appointed as Speaker or Deputy Speaker, whether or not a member of the MNLA, and may be reappointed.

(4) The Speaker is responsible for the procedures, rules, debates and decorum of the MNLA and shall:

(a) receive the list of members and seating arrangements of the MNLA from the Clerk as established by the Roll Call prepared pursuant to section 6;

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- (b) approve all participation in debates and voting;
- (c) secure a written record of the MNLA and certify the minutes; and
- (d) ensure that only members are seated in the MNLA with all other observers seated in designated areas.

(5) The Deputy Speaker shall act as Speaker in the absence or inability of the Speaker to act.

### **Dumont's Scout**

4 The PMC may appoint one or more MN-S Citizens to hold the office of Dumont's Scout, named in honour of Dumont's peacekeepers historically called "Scouts", and to be responsible for maintaining order during sittings of the MNLA at the direction of the Speaker.

### **Clerk**

5(1) The PMC shall appoint Clerk of the MNLA, whose appointment must be ratified by the MNLA, to hold office at the pleasure of the MNLA.

(2) The Clerk shall:

- (a) compile or cause the necessary documents for the Order of the Day to be compiled;
- (b) approve all documentation to be circulated to members of the MNLA;
- (c) prepare the agenda of the MNLA in accordance with the direction of the PMC;
- (d) ensure the independent recording of the minutes of the MNLA and provide a copy to the Speaker to be certified;
- (e) obtain a certified copy of the minutes of the MNLA from the Speaker and ensure their safekeeping;
- (f) provide a certified copy of the minutes of the MNLA to each member; and
- (g) ensure that the necessary staff are in place to provide for the efficient and effective administration of the MNLA, including the appointment of a Deputy Clerk.

### **Roll Call**

6 The Clerk shall compile the Roll Call, being the list of members of the MNLA, and shall use the Roll Call at the opening of each sitting of the MNLA and as required to determine if a quorum is present and who is entitled to vote.

### **Proposing resolutions**

7(1) A member of the MNLA may table a proposed resolution with the Clerk to be included in the Order of the Day at least 30 days prior to the sitting of the MNLA at which it is to be considered.

(2) The Clerk shall include a proposed resolution in the Order of the Day if it is legally valid, funds are available for its implementation if adopted, and it is not administrative in nature.

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### **Adoption of resolutions**

**8(1)** A resolution to enact legislation, ratify an appointment, provide a directive, make a proclamation, or otherwise reflect a decision of the MNLA is adopted when it is supported by a majority of the votes cast, as long as the number of members present constitutes a quorum.

(2) A resolution to adopt an amendment to the Constitution is adopted when it is supported by 75% of the votes cast, as long as the number of members present constitutes a quorum.

(3) A resolution to adopt a Treaty or settle a claim is adopted when it is supported by 75% of the votes cast, as long as the number of members present constitutes a quorum.

### **Order of the Day**

**9** The Order of the Day must include the following documents, which are tabled by the Clerk at the commencement of each sitting of the MNLA:

- (a) the agenda for the sitting;
- (b) the minutes of the previous sitting;
- (c) except in the case of a special sitting of the MNLA, the written reports of the Executive, each Regional Representative, ministerial reports, reports of affiliates and their audits, and any other reports required by the Constitution or any legislation; and
- (d) any draft resolutions, legislation, or constitutional amendments being proposed.

### **Proposed legislation**

**10(1)** Only a member of the MNLA may propose new legislation or amendments to existing legislation and shall table any such proposal with the Clerk at least 30 days prior to the sitting of the MNLA at which it is to be considered.

(2) Legislation is enacted when it is ratified by a resolution of the MNLA supported by a majority of the votes cast, as long as the number of members present constitutes a quorum.

(3) Legislation comes into force on the date specified in the legislation or, if no date is specified, when it is enacted.

### **Proposed Constitutional amendments**

**11(1)** Only a member of the MNLA may propose an amendment to the Constitution and shall table any such proposal with the Clerk at least 30 days prior to the sitting of the MNLA at which it is to be considered.

(2) A proposal to amend the Constitution must be accompanied by:

- (a) a resolution of the PMC approving the proposal; or
- (b) the signatures of five members of the MNLA approving the proposal.

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### **Reports**

**12** Each affiliate shall, within 90 days of the end of its fiscal year, submit an annual report including its audited financial statements to the Clerk of the MNLA for inclusion in the Order of the Day at the next sitting of the MNLA.

## PART III GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### **Convening**

**13** A meeting of the General Assembly required by the Constitution shall be held on the date, at the time and place, and in the manner determined by the PMC.

### **Officials**

**14(1)** The Speaker and Deputy Speaker shall serve as chair and co-chair of the General Assembly.

(2) The Speaker is responsible for the procedures, rules, debates and decorum of the General Assembly and shall:

- (a) approve all participation in debates and voting; and
- (b) secure a written record of the General Assembly and certify the minutes.

(3) The Clerk shall also act as Clerk to the General Assembly and shall:

- (a) approve all documentation to be circulated to members of the General Assembly;
- (b) prepare the agenda of the General Assembly in accordance with the direction of the PMC;
- (c) ensure the independent recording of the minutes of the General Assembly and provide a copy to the Speaker to be certified;
- (d) obtain a certified copy of the minutes of the General Assembly from the Speaker and ensure their safekeeping;
- (e) ensure that a certified copy of the minutes of the General Assembly is accessible by every MN-S Citizen; and
- (f) ensure that the necessary staff are in place to provide for the efficient and effective administration of the General Assembly.

### **Procedure**

**15** The PMC shall establish rules to govern a meeting of the General Assembly subject to the following principles:

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- (a) all MN-S Citizens must have been provided with 30 days' notice of the meeting of the General Assembly;
- (b) the meeting of the General Assembly must include a reasonable period of time set aside for questions and discussion;
- (c) in the case of a General Assembly called for the purpose of ratifying amendments to the Constitution that have been adopted by the MLNA:
  - (i) the text of the specific constitutional amendments that have been approved by the MNLA, and an explanation of them, must be available to all MN-S Citizens prior to the General Assembly;
  - (ii) notice of the time or times at which voting will occur on each constitutional amendment approved by the MNLA must be provided prior to the General Assembly; and
  - (iii) voting on each constitutional amendment approved by the MNLA must occur at the time scheduled in the notice.

### PART IV

#### REPEAL AND COMING INTO FORCE

##### **Repeal**

**16** The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Act, 1999 is repealed.

##### **Coming into force**

**17** This Act comes into force when it is enacted by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.

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