

BYLAWS CHILLIWACK METIS ASSOCIATION

(the "Society")

1.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1.1 Whereas:

- The Métis residing in the Chilliwack area of British Columbia share commonality with all Métis Citizens in British Columbia and Canada as represented by the Métis Nation British Columbia and the Métis National Council.
- The Métis residing in the Chilliwack area of British Columbia have formed an Association for the benefit of the Métis citizens residing in that area known as the Chilliwack Métis Association (hereinafter "CMA").
- Bylaws pursuant to which CMA shall conduct its affairs, have been established in accordance with the spirit and intent of the Constitutions of CMA and the Métis Nation British Columbia.
- In the conduct of its affairs as set out in these Bylaws, CMA shall ensure and demonstrate financial and decision-making accountability to its Métis Citizens and financial partners and contractors.
- CMA will work with and through cooperative strategic alliances with other partners, to ensure the economic, social, educational, Michif language, cultural and political well being of its Citizenship and all Métis.
- One such strategic alliance will be with the Métis Nation British Columbia and its Secretariat, the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (the "MNBC" and "MPCBC" respectively and together the "MNBC/MPCBC") which alliance shall be identified and defined by a Community Governance Charter agreement to be entered into between CMA and MNBC/MPCBC.
- Nothing in these bylaws abrogates or derogates from the rights Métis Citizens have or may exercise under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Every Citizen shall have the right to an opinion and to express that opinion freely without fear of persecution or punishment or consequence except when such opinion and expression would be detrimental to the Métis Nation as a whole and or the Society in particular.
- CMA shall, in the exercise of its functions as a Métis organization parent such branch councils, committees and boards which are benevolent and beneficial to the Métis people as a whole and which are, in manner and substance traditionally Métis. These parented entities shall be required to exist under the umbrella of the Constitution of CMA and the MNBC and have as policy, procedure or Bylaws, such policy, procedure and bylaws that are consistent with these Bylaws and the MNBC Constitution.
- The affairs of CMA shall be deemed community in scope.

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02. DEFINITIONS

“**Associate Member**” means any individual who has joined the Chilliwack Métis Association but does not hold Métis Citizenship through the MNBC Central Registry. Associate Members will be permitted to attend the CMA functions or meetings, but shall not be permitted to hold Board positions or vote on governance issues.

“**Distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples**” means distinct for cultural and nationhood purposes.

“**Designated Geographical Boundary**” means the geographical area, the boundaries of which shall be determined by CMA in consultation with the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (the "MNGA") and which shall be restricted to the territory known as the Chilliwack area of British Columbia Community.

“**Historic Métis Nation**” means the Aboriginal people then known as Métis or Half-Breeds who resided in Historic Métis Nation Homeland.

“**Historic Métis Nation Homeland**” means the area of land in west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-Breeds as they were then known.

“**Métis**”, “**Métis Citizen**” “**Métis Member**”, “**Citizen**” or “**Member**” as the case may be, means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples and is accepted by the Métis Community.

“**Métis Nation**” means the Aboriginal peoples 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 s.35 of the Constitution Act of 1982.

Métis Nation British Columbia (hereinafter the “MNBC”) means the governing body of the Métis Citizens in British Columbia which has as its constitution the Constitution of the Métis Nation British Columbia and which has as its administrative arm the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (the "MPCBC").

Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia means the organization of that name which is registered as a society with the Registrar of Companies in British Columbia and which fulfils the administrative functions of the MNBC and is referred to as the MNBC Secretariat.

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3.0 CITIZENSHIP

- 3.1 CMA will ensure that their membership and approval procedure is consistent with MNBC related policies.
- 3.2 CMA will strive to ensure the Community and its citizens gain fair benefit from, and have equal access to, all Aboriginal programs in Canada and the province of British Columbia.
- 3.3 Upon verification from MNBC, anyone residing in the boundaries for CMA will automatically become a CMA Citizen and a welcoming correspondence will be sent to them.
- 3.4 CMA shall have the right to refuse Citizenship or Associate Membership to any person for legitimate purposes
- 3.5 A person refused Associate Membership shall not have the right to appeal the refusal.
- 3.6 A person may be suspended or removed from the Society or have their name removed from the list of CMA Citizens by a 3/4 majority vote at an AGM or SGM called for that purpose if notice of that suspension or removal is given to that person at least 30 days prior to the AGM or SGM and that person has had an opportunity to give an oral and/or written response to the suspension or removal.
- 3.7 Notice of a suspension or removal shall be made to the Citizen or Associate Member being suspended or removed in a written document which describes in plain language the proposed suspension or removal and the reasons for the action being taken.
- 3.8 Citizens of CMA shall not be suspended or removed from the Society or have their name removed from the list of CMA Citizens in any way except as is set out in these bylaws
- 3.9 No Citizen may be suspended for more than 3 years. A suspended Citizen may not run for any office or sit on any board, but may access all other rights and services
- 3.10 The provisions of the MNBC Citizenship Act shall govern any challenges to the inclusion of Métis citizens in the Citizenship of CMA.

4.0 DIRECTORS

- 4.1 The CMA Board of Directors shall be comprised of the following board members:
 - a) President;
 - b) Vice President;
 - c) Secretary

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- d) Treasurer
 - d) Minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 directors.
 - e) From time-to-time Associate Members will be permitted to attend the CMA Board functions or meetings, but shall not be permitted to hold Board voting positions or vote on governance issues.
- 4.2 Four (4) citizens of the CMA Board of Directors, one of who must be the President or in his/her absence, the Vice President, shall constitute a quorum.
- 4.3 The President of CMA shall be the Chairperson of the CMA Board of Directors.
- 4.4 The CMA Board of Directors may exercise all the powers and do all the acts and things that the CMA may exercise and do and may, in the exercise of their duties and on behalf of and in the name of the CMA, raise or secure the payment or repayment of money in the manner they decide.
- 4.5 The CMA Board of Directors shall be accountable to the citizens of CMA and will provide written Reports, including a financial report at each Annual General Meeting and a copy of the financial report will be forwarded to MNBC
- 4.6 The CMA Board of Directors shall designate two (2) persons in addition to the President who shall have signing authority for the purposes of conducting the affairs of the CMA. One of the two designated persons shall be the CMA Treasurer. Affairs of CMA requiring signed authority shall be comprised of two signatories.
- 4.7 The CMA Board of Directors will endeavour to hold board meetings on a monthly basis but shall meet at least four (4) times per year at the call of the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall give at least one (1) weeks notice of all CMA board meetings.
- 4.8 The majority of the CMA Board of Directors may call a meeting with one-week notice to all members of the board.
- 4.9 Decisions of the CMA Board of Directors shall require a simple majority.
- 4.10 A person is disqualified from being a Member of the CMA Board of Directors when he or she holds a position with the MPCBC/MNBC pursuant to which that person receives remuneration or income. A person is not disqualified from being a Member of the CMA Board of Directors if that person receives an honorarium, salary or per diem for performing the duties of director of the CMA Board of Directors.
- 4.11 A member of the CMA Board of Directors may be removed from office only in the following circumstances:

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- a) when he or she is disqualified;
- b) when he or she is convicted of an indictable offence or an offence, carrying a penalty of two years or greater; or
- c) when he or she has been removed by a 2/3 vote of the Métis Citizens in attendance and entitled to vote at an AGM or an SGM when notice of that Director's removal has been provided prior to the AGM or SGM.

- 4.12 A Member of the CMA Board of Directors shall not be removed from the CMA Board of Directors by any process other than as set out in Article 4.11 or through an election held in accordance with these bylaws.
- 4.13 A person may be suspended for cause from being a CMA Board of Director member by a vote of the majority of the members of the CMA Board of Directors. A person so suspended may appeal the suspension to the Senate whose decision shall be final and binding.
- 4.14 A Director shall be given notice of any proposed resolution to remove or suspend that Director and he or she shall be given an opportunity to speak to the Board of Directors or to the CMA citizens in attendance at an AGM or SGM where the removal or suspension will be subject to a discussion and/or vote.
- 4.15 The CMA Board, by majority vote, shall appoint a CMA citizen to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors and that person shall hold the office for which there was a vacancy until a special General Meeting called for that purpose or an AGM is held at which time nominations for the vacant position shall be accepted and the position filled by an election in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws.
- 4.16 The Chairperson may, from time to time, upon receiving direction from the board and when the board deems it necessary and beneficial, appoint a qualified person to act as an advisor or mentor to the board.

5.0 ELECTIONS

- 5.1 The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Directors of CMA as set out in article 4.1 of these bylaws, shall be elected by secret ballot box election to be held during the CMA Annual General meeting in the year in which the term of the members of the Board of Directors has been fulfilled. Members elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting shall hold office for a term of two years.
- 5.2 The number of terms that a CMA citizen may hold office as member of the CMA board of directors is unlimited.

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- 5.3 CMA citizens shall be entitled to vote in an election for a member of the Board of Directors if that citizen
- a) is 18 years of age or older as of the date of the election;
 - b) has been a resident of British Columbia for at least six (6) months prior to the date of the election; and
 - c) has been a resident within the CMA Designated Geographical Boundary in the Chilliwack area for no less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election.
- 5.4 Documentary proof of residence shall include, but not be limited to, a Provincial Métis Citizenship card, a telephone bill, a Hydro bill, a Driver's License or such other documentary evidence which is satisfactory to the Board of Directors or their designated elections officer.
- 5.5 Subject to the provisions of these bylaws, any CMA citizen who is eighteen (18) years of age or older may, if qualified, be nominated and, if elected, hold office as CMA board member.
- 5.6 Candidates for election to the Board of Directors shall be nominated at the AGM by a mover and a seconder.
- 5.7 CMA citizens seeking elected office within the CMA must have been a resident of British Columbia for at least twelve (12) months prior to the date of the election. They must also have been a resident within the CMA Designated Geographical Boundaries of the Chilliwack area for at least six (6) months prior to the date of the election.
- 5.8 There shall be no limit on the number of terms that may be served by anyone elected to the CMA Board of Directors.
- 5.9 CMA citizens, shall be given notice of CMA meetings, excluding board meetings, where possible in a manner which, in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors shall be sufficient. Citizens may attend the CMA Board of Directors meetings of which they have notice but shall not be permitted to participate in the proceedings.

6.0 MEETINGS

- 6.1 Annual General Meetings ("AGM") shall be held once per year on at least 30 days' notice to the Members.
- 6.2 Annual General Meetings of the CMA shall be held during the month of October. The precise date and location of an AGM shall be held at a time and location, chosen by the Board of Directors, that is conducive to enabling as many as possible of the citizens to

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attend. The agenda for each AGM shall include:

- a) Financial Report for Previous Fiscal Year;
- b) Presidents Report;
- c) And such other reports as shall be included on the Agenda for that AGM

- 6.3 Special or Extraordinary General Meetings ("SGM") shall be held when circumstances require, on a minimum of 14 days' notice to the members.
- 6.4 Notice of an AGM or SGM shall be accompanied with an agenda of the business that is expected to be transacted at the AGM or SGM.
- 6.5 All citizens shall be entitled to attend and participate at an AGM or SGM. Only citizens who are 18 years of age or older on the date of the AGM or SGM; who have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six (6) months prior to the date of the AGM or SGM; and who have been a resident within the CMA Designated Geographical Boundary of the Chilliwack area for no less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the AGM or SGM will be entitled to vote at the AGM or SGM. Associate members do not have the right to vote at an AGM or SGM.
- 6.6 At an AGM or SGM a quorum is 8 members present or a greater number that the members may determine at the AGM or SGM.

7.0 RELATIONSHIP WITH MNBC

- 7.1 The CMA acknowledges that the MNBC is the governing Provincial body of the Métis Citizens in British Columbia and in the Chilliwack, B.C. geographical area.
- 7.2 CMA shall, as soon as possible enter into a Community Governance Charter Agreement with the MPCBC/MNBC that sets out requirements for accountability, mutual recognition and dispute resolution.
- 7.3 Any provision of these Bylaws that are inconsistent with the MPCBC/MNBC Constitution shall be null and void as it relates to that matter. CMA acknowledges that the governance of the CMA is intended to be consistent with the provisions of the MNBC Constitution.

8.0 DISSOLUTION

- 8.1 On the winding up or dissolution of CMA any and all assets remaining after all the just debts of CMA have been paid shall be transferred to a society having a purpose similar to that of the CMA. Any transfer of assets to such society shall be sufficient to discharge any and all obligations and responsibilities of CMA in relation to those assets.

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9.0 AMENDMENT

- 9.1 The Constitution and Bylaws for the CMA shall only be amended by at least 66% plus one of the CMA citizens casting votes in favour of the amendment(s) at a CMA AGM or SGM where at least 30 days' notice of the proposed amendment(s) has been given to the members.
- 9.2 All proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws must be registered with the CMA Board of Directors no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the CMA AGM or SGM.
- 9.3 All amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws shall be appended to the Constitution and Bylaws. Those amendments to the text of the Constitution and Bylaws which are adopted by the CMA citizens at an AGM or SGM shall be made immediately.

10.0 RATIFICATION

- 10.1 The Constitution and Bylaws shall be in effect and deemed ratified immediately upon being passed at a meeting called for that purpose and after being registered with the Registrar of Societies.

Dated at Chilliwack, B.C. this 6th day of September, 2023.