

Updated Feb 18/05

**SCHEDULE "C"**

**ELECTION BYLAWS OF**

**MÉTIS NATION**

**OF**

**ALBERTA ASSOCIATION**

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## ARTICLE 1. NAME OF BYLAWS

- 1.1 These Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association are intended to cover Provincial Elections in the Métis Nation of Alberta Association and shall be referred to as the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election By-Laws.

## ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1
- (a) "Bylaws" - means Métis Nation of Alberta Association Election Bylaws;
  - (b) "Candidate" - means a person who is nominated for office;
  - (c) "Chief Electoral Officer" - means a Métis person appointed by the Provincial Council;
  - (d) "Bylaws" - means the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association;
  - (e) "Deputy Returning Officer" - a person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer;
  - (f) "Election" - means an election called pursuant to the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws;
  - (g) "Election Officer" - means a Chief Electoral Officer, Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk as established in these By-laws;
  - (h) "Elector" - means a Métis Lifetime member who on voting day:
    - (i) is entitled to vote; and
    - (ii) is sixteen (16) years of age or older; and
    - (iii) is or has been for at least one (1) year prior to the date of the election ordinarily resident in Alberta;
  - (i) "List of Electors" - means a list made under these bylaws of persons entitled to vote at an election;
  - (j) "Métis Judiciary Council" - means a judiciary council established under these Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association;
  - (k) "Métis Nation" - means Métis Nation of Alberta Association;

- (l) "Poll Book" - means a list of names of persons who have received ballots at an election;
- (m) "Poll Clerk" - means a person appointed by the Returning Officer;
- (n) "Polling Station" - means a place where an elector casts his or her vote;
- (o) "Presidential Candidate" - means a person who is nominated as a candidate for office of President of the Métis Nation;
- (p) "Region" - means one of six (6) regions as described in the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws;
- (q) "Regional President Candidate" - means a person who is nominated as a candidate for President of a Region;
- (r) "Regional Vice President Candidate" - means a person who is nominated as a candidate for Vice President of a Region;
- (s) "Returning Officer" - a Métis person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer;
- (t) "Scrutineer" - means an elector who is authorized to represent a candidate at a polling station;
- (u) "Vice-Presidential Candidate" - means a person who is nominated as a candidate for office of Vice-President of the Métis Nation;

### **ARTICLE 3 DATE OF ELECTION**

- 3.1 The date of the election shall be held on the first Tuesday in the month of September in the year that the election is required or any other date determined by the Provincial Council, Annual Assembly, or Special Meeting according to the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association.

### **ARTICLE 4 CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER**

- 4.1 The Provincial Council shall appoint a Chief Electoral Officer.
- 4.2 The Chief Electoral Officer shall:

- (a) provide guidance and supervision respecting the conduct of the election;
- (b) enforce on the part of all election officers fairness and impartiality in the conduct of their duties and compliance with these bylaws;
- (c) issue to election officers any information and guidance he or she considers necessary to ensure the effective carrying out of the provisions of these bylaws;
- (d) reconcile all ballots and prepare an official election report to the members of the Métis Nation;
- (e) perform all duties assigned to him or her by these bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE 5 QUALIFICATION OF ELECTOR**

5.1 Any Métis Lifetime member who:

- (a) is sixteen (16) years or older; and
- (b) has been or will have been ordinarily resident in Alberta for at least one (1) year prior to the date of the election;
- (c) will sign a declaration stating he/she is not currently registered as a status Indian under the provisions of the Indian Act, prior to casting his/her ballot.

shall be entitled to vote for any candidate for office of President, Vice-President, Regional President and Regional Vice President in his or her Region.

5.2 For the purpose of these bylaws ordinary residence shall be determined by the following rules:

- (a) a person can have only one place of ordinary residence;
- (b) a person's ordinary residence is the place where he or she lives and sleeps and to which, when he or she is absent from it, he or she intends to return;
- (c) when a person leaves Alberta with the intention of becoming ordinarily resident outside Alberta, his or her ordinary residence in Alberta ceases.

5.3 An elector is entitled to only one (1) vote for each office for which an election is held.

- 5.4 The following persons are not eligible to vote at an election:
- (a) Returning Officers except to break a tie between Regional President Candidates and between Regional Vice President Candidates at the recount;
  - (b) Chief Electoral officer except to break a tie between Presidential candidates and between Vice-Presidential Candidates at the recount;

## **ARTICLE 6 NOMINATION OF CANDIDATE**

- 6.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall give at least thirty (30) days notice by posting in the head office of the Métis Nation and in each Regional Council office and in newspapers that have a general distribution in each region notice of:
- (a) The place and hours fixed for the nominations of candidates and the date fixed for closing of nominations; and
  - (b) The nomination paper required to be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer;
- 6.2 Nominations of candidates for office of President, Vice-President, Regional President and Regional Vice President, shall be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer at a location specified by the Chief Electoral Officer prior to 5:00 p.m. on the date fixed for the closing of nominations.
- 6.3 All nominations of candidates shall be received by the Chief Electoral Officer at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election.
- 6.4 A Métis Lifetime member is eligible to be nominated as a candidate in an election if on the day his or her nomination paper is filed he or she:
- (a) is a Métis Lifetime member who is entitled to hold office; and
  - (b) is of the full age of sixteen (16) years or will be that age on election day; and
  - (c) has been ordinarily resident in Alberta continuously from the day 12 months immediately preceding the election day; and
  - (d) has no financial debt owing to the Métis Nation or its affiliates that is more than thirty (30) days in arrears;
- 6.5 All nominations for President and Vice-President shall include the following:

- (a) written acceptance of the nomination by the candidate; and
- (b) One hundred and fifty (150) signatures of electors nominating the candidate; and
- (c) a non-refundable deposit in the sum of Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars.
- (d) A deposit that is not refundable under this section shall be deposited in the general account of the Métis Educational Foundation.
- (e) Persons applying to hold an elected office within the Métis Nation of Alberta shall provide an official letter to the Chief Electoral Officer declaring that they are not currently registered with the Department of Indian Affairs as a status Indian under the provisions of the Indian Act.

6.6 All nominations for Regional President and Regional Vice President, shall include the following:

- (a) written acceptance of the nomination by the candidate; and
- (b) seventy-five (75) signatures of electors who reside in the Region nominating the candidate; and
- (c) a non-refundable deposit in the sum of Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars.
- (d) A deposit that is not refundable under this section shall be deposited equally in the general account of the foundations of the Regional Council of the candidate;
- (e) Persons applying to hold an elected office within the Métis Nation of Alberta shall provide an official letter to the Chief Electoral Officer declaring that they are not currently registered with the Department of Indian Affairs as a status Indian under the provisions of the Indian Act.

## **ARTICLE 7 LIST OF ELECTORS**

7.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall obtain from the Métis Nation Membership Office a list of Métis Lifetime Members and distribute one free copy to each candidate running for election.

- 7.2 The Chief Electoral Officer shall then, from the list of Métis Lifetime Members, prepare a list of electors and satisfy himself or herself as to the accuracy of the list of electors.
- 7.3 The Chief Electoral Officer shall submit to each Regional Council Office a list of electors which shall be posted not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the election in each Regional Council Office or any other place determined by the Chief Electoral Officer.
- 7.4 There shall be no vouching.
- 7.5 A person can have his or her name added to the list of electors at any time up to the closing of the polling station provided that the person can present his or her Métis Membership card.

#### **ARTICLE 8 ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION**

- 8.1 If only one candidate is nominated for President by the time nominations close the Chief Electoral office shall:
  - (a) immediately declare the candidate elected;
- 8.2 If only one candidate is nominated for Vice-President by the time nominations close the Chief Electoral office shall:
  - (a) immediately declare the candidate elected;
- 8.3 If only one candidate is nominated for Regional President in a region by the time nominations close the Chief Electoral Officer shall:
  - (a) immediately declare the candidate elected.
- 8.4 If only one candidate is nominated for Regional Vice President in a region by the time nominations close the Chief Electoral Officer shall:
  - (a) immediately declare the candidate elected.

#### **ARTICLE 9 TOO FEW CANDIDATES NOMINATED**

- 9.1 If after declaring elected nominated candidates there still remains offices to be filled the Chief Electoral Officer shall set an additional day, time and place for the receipt of nominations for the remaining offices.

**ARTICLE 10 POSTING OF NOTICE OF POLL AND CANDIDATES**

- 10.1 Where more candidates are nominated for any particular office than are required to be elected the Chief Electoral Officer shall:
- (a) Within twenty-one (21) days after the close of nominations post in each Regional Council office a notice indicating:
    - (i) the names of the candidates; and
    - (ii) the location, date and time when the polling station will be open for voting.

**ARTICLE 11 WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATE**

- 11.1 A candidate within forty eight (48) hours from the date of closing of nominations may withdraw by filing with the Chief Electoral officer a declaration to that effect signed by the candidate and having his or her signature witnessed.
- 11.2 When a candidate has withdrawn, the Chief Electoral Officer shall take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that each voter is so advised when receiving a ballot.

**ARTICLE 12 DEATH OF A CANDIDATE**

- 12.1 If a candidate for President or Vice-President dies after being nominated and prior to closing of the polling stations on the polling day, the election for Provincial Council, other than President or Vice-President, shall be held but the rules for election of President or Vice-President shall be as follows:
- (a) the election for President or Vice-President shall be discontinued;
  - (b) the Chief Electoral Officer shall establish a new election date for office of President or Vice-President and publish the new date;
  - (c) the Chief Electoral Officer shall determine a new date for closing of nominations;
  - (d) nominations for candidates previously filed remain valid for the new election;

- 12.2 If a candidate for Regional President or Regional Vice President, dies after being nominated and prior to closing of the polling stations on the polling date, the election for President or Vice-President shall be held but the rules for election of the remaining Regional President or Regional Vice President shall be as follows:
- (a) the election for the remaining Regional Presidents and Regional Vice Presidents shall continue, other than in the Region where the candidate who died was running for office;
  - (b) the Chief Electoral Officer shall establish a new election date for office of Regional President and Regional Vice President, in the Region where the candidate who died was running for office, and publish the new date;
  - (c) the Chief Electoral Officer shall determine a new date for closing of nominations;
  - (d) nominations for candidates previously filed remain valid for the new election;
- 12.3 The Chief Electoral Officer shall provide the Provincial Council with a report containing the reason for the postponement of the election.

**ARTICLE 13 APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER, DEPUTY  
RETURNING OFFICER AND POLL CLERK**

- 13.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall appoint for each Region a Returning Officer to manage and conduct voting procedures at polls within each Region.
- 13.2 The Returning Officer shall appoint for each Local where a polling station is to be established;
- (a) A Deputy Returning Officer; and
  - (b) A Poll Clerk to assist the Deputy Returning Officer.
- 13.3 A person appointed as either a Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk shall hold office from the time appointed until thirty (30) days after the date of the election.
- 13.4 Where a vacancy occurs in the office of Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk the Chief Electoral Officer shall forthwith appoint another person to fill the vacancy.

- 13.5 A person who is the spouse, child, brother, sister, mother or father of a candidate for office of President, Vice-President or Regional President and Regional Vice President shall be ineligible to be appointed Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk.

#### **ARTICLE 14 POLLING HOURS**

- 14.1 Polling shall begin at 8:00 a.m. on the date of the election and close at 8:00 p.m. on the same day.

#### **ARTICLE 15 LOCATION OF POLLING STATIONS**

- 15.1 A polling station shall be in a location that, in the opinion of the Chief Electoral officer is convenient for the electors.
- 15.2 Every polling station shall be accessible to handicapped persons.
- 15.3 No polling station may be located in the following places:
- (a) licensed premises;
  - (b) premises in which a candidate has an interest;
  - (c) a Métis Settlement unless there is a Métis Local Community in the Métis Settlement that has been established under the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association;

#### **ARTICLE 16 SCRUTINEERS**

- 16.1 Each candidate may appoint not more than one elector as a scrutineer:
- (a) to represent him or her at each polling station, and
  - (b) to observe the election procedures on his or her behalf;

#### **ARTICLE 17 BALLOT BOXES**

- 17.2 The Chief Electoral Officer shall provide each returning officer with a sufficient number of ballot boxes to conduct the election in his or her region. The ballot boxes shall be:
- (a) made of a durable material;

- (b) accompanied by a sufficient number of appropriate seals;
- (c) designed in a manner that permits the deposit of ballots but does not permit their removal without breaking the seals after they have been attached.

#### **ARTICLE 18    BALLOTS**

- 18.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall cause to be printed at the expense of the Métis Nation a sufficient number of ballot papers for the purposes of the election.

#### **ARTICLE 19    CONTENTS OF BALLOT PAPERS**

- 19.1 Every ballot paper shall contain the name of the candidates which shall be arranged alphabetically in the order of their surnames and, if there are two (2) or more candidates with the same surname, then in the order of their given names.

#### **ARTICLE 20    POLLING BOOTHS**

- 20.1 Each polling station shall contain one or more polling booths arranged so that when a voter is in the polling booth he or she is screened from observation and may mark his or her ballot without interference.
- 20.2 In each polling booth there shall be provided for the use of voters marking their ballots:
- (a) a suitable table, desk or shelf; and
  - (b) a suitable marking instrument which shall be properly maintained during polling hours.

#### **ARTICLE 21    MATERIAL AT POLLING STATION**

- 21.1 The Deputy Returning Officer shall before the opening of the poll ensure that the following are available:
- (a) Copies of the directions for the guidance of voters in voting;

- (b) A suitable poll book, where the names of all electors are to be entered;
- (c) A copy of the latest revised list of electors;
- (d) A ballot box or ballot boxes as required;
- (e) A sufficient number of ballot papers;
- (f) The material necessary to enable voters to mark the ballot papers;
- (g) Copies of vouchers of electors;
- (h) Such other forms, office stationery and materials as may be required to enable the Deputy Returning Officer to perform his or her duties.

## **ARTICLE 22 PERSONS ENTITLED TO REMAIN IN POLLING STATION**

22.1 Only the following persons may remain in a polling station during polling hours:

- (a) Deputy Returning Officer;
- (b) Poll Clerk;
- (c) Returning Officer;
- (d) Chief Electoral Officer;
- (e) One Scrutineer per candidate;
- (f) Interpreters;

22.2 Nothing in this Act restricts a candidate from briefly visiting a polling station during polling hours.

## **ARTICLE 23 SECRECY OF VOTING**

23.1 No person shall interfere or attempt to interfere with an elector who is marking his or her ballot or casting his or her vote or otherwise attempt to obtain at the polling station information as to the candidate or candidates for whom an elector at that polling station is about to vote or has voted.

- 23.2 Each Deputy Returning Officer, Poll Clerk, candidate and scrutineer in attendance at a polling station or at the counting of the ballots shall assist in maintaining the secrecy of the voting and he or she shall not communicate or attempt to communicate any information obtained at the polling place regarding which candidate an elector has voted for or is about to vote for.

#### **ARTICLE 24 SECRET BALLOT**

- 24.1 Where a poll is required at an election the vote shall be given by secret ballot.

#### **ARTICLE 25 OPENING OF POLLING STATION - DISPLAY OF BALLOT BOX**

- 25.1 Each Deputy Returning Officer shall attend at the polling station at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the opening of his or her polling station.
- 25.2 During the 30 minutes immediately prior to the opening of the polling station the Deputy Returning Officer shall show the ballot box to candidates, scrutineers and other persons entitled to be present so that they may see that the ballot box is empty.
- 25.3 After the ballot box has been shown it shall be locked and sealed for receipt of ballots and at all times during the hours of voting.

#### **ARTICLE 26 ADVANCE POLLS**

- 26.1 An advance poll shall be held on Saturday, ten (10) days before the election to enable:
- (a) electors who are disabled;
  - (b) electors who believe that they will be absent from their ordinary place of residence on polling day; and
  - (c) poll clerks, returning officers, scrutineers and candidates who believe that because of their official duties on polling day they will be unable to attend at the polling station to cast their votes;

to vote in advance at an election.

- 26.2 Polling stations for advance polling shall be in a location that, in the opinion of the Chief Electoral Officer is convenient for the electors.
- 26.3 The Deputy Returning Officer shall obtain from each elector prior to voting at the advance poll, a signed statement indicating that the elector is unable to vote at his or her polling station on election day and will not vote on election day.
- 26.4 The rules regarding the conduct of an election on polling day and related matters apply, with all necessary modifications, to the holding of an advance poll.
- 26.5 At the close of every Advance Poll, the Deputy Returning Officer shall remove the ballot box and ensure that the number of ballots in the box when combined with the number of unused ballots, equals the number of ballots which the Deputy Returning Officer was given at the commencement of voting. The ballots shall not be sorted or unfolded, but shall be counted to determine that there is no discrepancy between the number of ballots cast and left over when compared with the number of ballots with which the polling station opened. All ballots shall then be placed into marked envelopes provided by the Chief Electoral Officer, signed and sealed, along with the unused ballots and delivered immediately to a place designated by the Chief Electoral Officer.

#### **ARTICLE 27 POLL BOOKS**

- 27.1 Each Deputy Returning Officer shall have available a suitable poll book in which the Deputy Returning Officer or the Poll Clerk shall enter the names of all electors applying to vote unless those names are previously printed therein. The Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk shall record whether those electors are objected to or vouched for and by whom and if objected to whether the elector voted or not.

#### **ARTICLE 28 GENERAL PROCEDURE AT POLLING STATION**

- 28.1 Where an elector presents himself or herself at the polling station for the purpose of voting, the Deputy Returning Officer shall, proceed as follows:
  - (a) The Deputy Returning Officer shall ascertain whether the name of the elector is on the list of electors and if it is not, the Deputy Returning Officer shall not permit the elector to vote unless the elector can provide the Deputy Returning Officer with his or her Métis Membership card.

- (b) The Deputy Returning Officer shall record or cause to be recorded in the proper column of the poll book the name, the address of the Elector.
- (c) Any candidate or his or her scrutineer may object to the eligibility of any elector requesting a ballot. Such objection shall be noted in the Poll Book and shall include the reason for the objection along with the name of the candidate on whose behalf the objection is being made. The Deputy Returning Officer shall then require the elector in question to swear the "Oath of Elector" and upon compliance, the Deputy Returning Officer shall give the elector a ballot paper so that the elector may cast his or her ballot.

#### **ARTICLE 29 EXPLANATION OF VOTING**

- 29.1 The Deputy Returning Officer may and upon request shall, either personally or through his Poll clerk explain to the elector as concisely as possible the way in which voting is to be done.

#### **ARTICLE 30 APPOINTMENT OF INTERPRETER**

- 30.1 Where the Deputy Returning Officer has reason to believe that at any polling station electors unable to speak or read the English language are likely to present themselves to vote, he or she may appoint a person familiar with the language of those electors to act as interpreter for the purpose of interpreting to them questions and answers concerning voting procedures.

#### **ARTICLE 31 BALLOT TO BE INITIALLED BY DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER**

- 31.1 Where the proper entries respecting the elector applying to vote have been made in the Poll Book the Deputy Returning Officer shall initial the back of the ballot paper and deliver it to the elector so applying.

#### **ARTICLE 32 MARKING OF BALLOT**

- 32.1 Upon receiving from the Deputy Returning Officer the ballot paper the elector shall proceed to the polling booth provided for the purpose and shall there mark his or her ballot paper by placing a mark on the right hand side opposite the name of any

candidate for whom he or she desires to vote or any other place within the division on the ballot that contains the name of that candidate.

### **ARTICLE 33 DELIVERY OF BALLOT TO DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER**

- 33.1 In the polling booth the elector shall then fold the ballot paper across so as to conceal the names of the candidates and the mark on the face of the ballot paper, and expose the initials of the Deputy Returning Officer. The elector shall then leave the polling booth and without showing the front of the ballot paper to anyone or so displaying the ballot paper so as to indicate the candidate or candidates for whom he or she has voted, the elector shall deliver the ballot paper so folded to the Deputy Returning Officer.

### **ARTICLE 34 DEPOSIT OF BALLOT**

- 34.1 The Deputy Returning Officer without unfolding the ballot paper or in any way disclosing the name of any candidate or the marks made by the elector shall verify his or her own initials and in the presence of those people present deposit the ballot paper in the ballot box and the elector shall then immediately leave the polling station.

### **ARTICLE 35 SECRECY OF VOTING BOOTH**

- 35.1 While the elector is in the polling booth no other person shall be allowed to enter the polling booth or to be in any position for which he or she can observe the manner in which the elector marks the ballot paper unless the elector requires assistance and is granted that assistance as provided herein.

### **ARTICLE 36 REMOVAL OF BALLOT FROM POLLING STATION**

- 36.1 An elector who has received a ballot paper shall not take it out of the polling station.

### **ARTICLE 37 FORFEITURE OF VOTING RIGHTS**

- 37.1 Where an elector leaves the polling station without first delivering his or her ballot paper to the Deputy Returning Officer or returns it after declining to vote he or she

forfeits his or her right to vote and the Deputy Returning Officer shall make an entry in the poll book in the column for remarks to the effect that the elector received the ballot paper, but took it out of the polling station or returned it declining to vote.

#### **ARTICLE 38 DECLINE TO VOTE**

- 38.1 Where an elector returns his or her ballot paper declining to vote, the Deputy Returning Officer shall immediately write the word "declined" upon it and preserve the ballot paper.

#### **ARTICLE 39 SPOILED BALLOT**

- 39.1 An elector voting who has inadvertently spoiled his or her ballot paper may on returning it to the Deputy Returning Officer obtain another ballot paper and the Deputy Returning Officer shall immediately write the word "spoiled" upon the returned ballot paper and preserve it.

#### **ARTICLE 40 VOTING BY DISABLED PERSON**

- 40.1 The Deputy Returning Officer, at the request of an elector who makes a declaration that he or she is unable to read or who is incapacitated by a physical cause from voting in the usual manner shall:
- (a) assist the voter by marking his or her ballot in the manner directed by the voter in the presence of any scrutineers of the candidates and shall place the ballot paper in the ballot box.
  - (b) If an elector is accompanied by a friend, permit the friend to accompany the elector into the polling booth and mark the elector's ballot paper for him or her.
- 40.2 The Deputy Returning Officer shall not act under subsection (1) until the elector has taken the prescribed oath.
- 40.3 When a ballot has been marked according to this section, the Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk shall enter in the poll book opposite the name of the elector and in the appropriate column "voter assistance".

- 40.4 Seniors, disabled electors, electors in hospitals may request voting privileges and shall be allowed to vote at their place of residence or hospital in the presence of the Deputy Returning Officer and any scrutineers of the candidate who may be present.

#### **ARTICLE 41 PROCEDURE ON CLOSE OF POLL**

- 41.1 After the closing of the poll, the Deputy Returning Officer shall, in the presence of the poll clerk, candidate and scrutineers, immediately count the number of spoiled and declined ballots and record the total on the outside of the envelope containing these ballots and then seal it.
- 41.2 On complying with subsection (1) the Deputy Returning Officer shall count:
- (a) the number of electors whose name appears on the list of electors; and
  - (b) the number of electors recorded in the poll book as having voted;
- and shall draw a line immediately under the last name in the poll book and affix his or her initials.
- 41.3 On complying with subsection (2), the Deputy Returning Officer shall open the ballot box and proceed with a count of vote and record the result.
- 41.4 The Deputy Returning Officer shall endorse with the words "not initialled" any ballot paper that does not have his or her initials or the initials of such person acting on his or her behalf on the back thereof and any such ballot shall be counted with the other ballots but immediately upon the conclusion of the count, the Deputy Returning Officer shall:
- (a) Count the number of such ballots, and
  - (b) record the total on the outside of the envelope containing these ballots and seal it.
- 41.5 In counting votes the Deputy Returning Officer shall reject any ballot that:
- (a) was not supplied by him or her;
  - (b) does not indicate a vote for any candidate;
  - (c) contains votes for more candidates than are to be elected;
  - (d) is so marked that it is uncertain for which candidate the vote was cast;

- (e) contains any writing or mark enabling the voter to be readily identified;
- 41.6 Notwithstanding subsection 41.5(a) to (e) a ballot shall not be rejected:
- (a) by reason of any writing, number or mark omitted by the Deputy Returning Officer; or
  - (b) When the vote, though incorrectly made on the ballot, clearly indicates the voters intention to vote for one particular candidate.
- 41.7 The Deputy Returning Officer shall make a note in the poll book of every objection to a ballot and the name of any candidate on whose behalf an objection was made.
- 41.8 Each objection shall be numbered and a corresponding number placed on the back of the ballot that is the subject of the objection and initialled by the Deputy Returning Officer.
- 41.9 The Deputy Returning Officer shall decide any question arising out of an objection.
- 41.10 The Deputy Returning Officer at the conclusion of the count shall complete a Statement of Poll indicating the number of votes for each candidate which shall be signed by the Deputy Returning Officer and Poll Clerk.
- 41.11 A copy of the Statement of Poll shall be attached to the Poll Book and the second page shall be retained by the Deputy Returning Officer to be sent to the Chief Electoral Officer.
- 41.12 Upon completion of the Statement of Poll the Deputy Returning Officer shall in the presence of the persons authorized to be present place into separate packets:
- (a) Statement of poll;
  - (b) The ballots that have been objected to but that have been counted;
  - (c) The ballots that have been objected to but that have not been counted;
  - (d) The rejected ballots not objected to;
  - (e) The rejected ballots objected to;
  - (f) The spoiled and declined ballots;
  - (g) The discarded ballot;

- (h) The unused ballots;
- (i) The Poll Book with the declaration of the Deputy Returning Officer therein;
- (j) The list of electors used at the poll;
- (k) The declarations of electors;
- (l) The statement of the number of electors as marked by the Deputy Returning Officer as "voter assistance";
- (m) The notes taken of objections to ballot papers found in the ballot box;
- (n) All other documents that were completed, prepared or used at the election.

41.13 The Deputy Returning Officer shall seal each of the envelopes mentioned in section 41.12 with his or her own seal and initial the outside of the envelopes.

41.14 The Deputy Returning Officer shall mark on the outside of each of the envelopes a short statement of the contents of the envelopes, the date and name of the election and his or her name.

41.15 The Deputy Returning Officer shall then return all envelopes and relevant documents to the Chief Electoral Officer.

## **ARTICLE 42 ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOTE**

42.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall publicly announce the results of the election and declare elected:

- (a) the Presidential candidate and Vice-Presidential candidate who received the largest number of votes; and
- (b) the Regional President Candidate for each Region who received the largest number of votes; and
- (c) the Regional Vice President Candidate for each Region who received the largest number of votes;

**ARTICLE 43 RECOUNT**

- 43.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall recount the ballots where applicable if:
- (a) the Chief Electoral Officer decides that there is a need for a recount; or
  - (b) a written request to recount is received from a candidate within fourteen (14) days from the date of the election;

**ARTICLE 44 RECOUNT PROCEDURE AND TIE BREAKING VOTE**

- 44.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall give written notice to each candidate of the place, date and hour of the commencement of the recount.
- 44.2 No person may be allowed in the room where the recount is being conducted except:
- (a) the Chief Electoral Officer;
  - (b) the Returning Officer;
  - (c) the Deputy Returning Officer;
  - (d) Poll Clerk;
  - (e) the candidates or an elector appointed in writing to be present on behalf of the candidate.
- 44.3 In recounting the ballots the Chief Electoral Officer shall follow the same counting rules which a Deputy Returning Officer is required to follow under these bylaws.
- 44.4 If, on the addition of votes by the Chief Electoral Officer no candidate can be declared elected for office of President or Vice-President because the same number of votes is counted for two (2) or more candidates the Chief Electoral Officer shall:
- (a) cast an additional vote by marking a ballot for one of the tied candidates;
  - (b) include that vote in the official count; and
  - (c) seal the ballot in an envelope marked with the words "Chief Electoral Officers Vote" and keep it separate from other ballots;

- 44.5 If, on the addition of votes by the Chief Electoral Officer, no Regional President Candidate or Regional Vice President Candidate can be declared elected for office of Regional President or Regional Vice President because the same number of votes is counted for two (2) or more candidates the Returning Officer for the region shall:
- (a) cast an additional vote by marking a ballot for one of the tied candidates;
  - (b) include that vote in the official count; and
  - (c) seal the ballot in an envelope marked with the words "Returning Officers Vote" and keep it separate from other ballots;
- 44.6 Upon conclusion of the recount the Chief Electoral Officer shall publicly announce the results of the recount and declare elected:
- (a) the Presidential Candidate and Vice-Presidential Candidate who received the largest number of votes; and
  - (b) the Regional President Candidate for each Region who received the largest number of votes; and
  - (c) the Regional Vice President Candidate for each Region who received the largest number of votes;

#### **ARTICLE 45 DESTROYING BALLOTS**

- 45.1 The Chief Electoral Officer shall destroy all ballots after the expiry of ninety (90) days from the date of the election unless:
- (a) directed by an Order of a Court; or
  - (b) Order of the Provincial Council; or
  - (c) a request for a recount is received in which case the ballots shall be destroyed after the expiry of ninety (90) days from the date of the recount unless otherwise ordered;

#### **ARTICLE 46 GENERAL**

- 46.1 No election is void by reason of:

- (a) an irregularity on the part of an election officer or in any of the proceedings preliminary to the poll;
- (b) a failure to hold a poll at any place appointed for holding a poll;
- (c) a non-compliance with the provisions of these Bylaws relating to the taking of the poll or the counting of the votes or with regard to limitations of time, or
- (d) any mistake in the use of the prescribed forms.

if it is shown to the satisfaction of the Métis Judiciary Council that the election was conducted in accordance with these Bylaws and that the irregularity, failure, non-compliance or mistake did not materially affect the result of the election.

#### **ARTICLE 47 ELECTION ACT OF ALBERTA**

- 47.1 Unless otherwise stated in these Bylaws, all rules, regulations and procedures shall be identical, or as identical as is possible, to those of the Election Act of the Province of Alberta.

#### **ARTICLE 48 INTERPRETATION**

- 48.1 Unless the context otherwise requires, words imparting the singular number or the masculine gender shall include the plural number or feminine gender, as the case may be, and vice-versa.