

ORDINARY RESOLUTION#1

Resolution on Climate Change and the Environment

WHEREAS the Métis Nation is an Indigenous people in Canada whose Homeland spans the historic northwest, including the territory now known as the Province of Alberta; and,

WHEREAS, consistent with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, the Métis Nation holds inherent rights to the lands and resources of its Homeland and may rely on and benefit from those lands and resources to develop and thrive; and,

WHEREAS climate change poses a particularly serious threat to the future of the Métis Nation and to our Homeland;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Alberta with its geographical and legal boundaries being the province of Alberta has stood as representative voice of the Métis in Alberta since 1928, and,

WHEREAS the MNA believes in continuing to build on our foundation for future generations, encouraging Métis participation in building our nation and assisting Métis people to achieve their goals; and,

WHEREAS, the Métis Nation and our Métis rights are recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982); and,

WHEREAS the MNA is a founding member of the Métis National Council (MNC); and,

WHEREAS the MNC held a Special Sitting of the General Assembly and unanimously passed a Resolution on Climate Change and the Environment in October 13-15, 2016; and,

WHEREAS the Métis Nation recognizes the essential value and beauty of the land, air, water and sky and all living creatures, the cultural connection to the land and resources as part of the Métis way of life, and the fundamental value of protecting biodiversity and practicing conservation to ensure the inheritance of future generations to these values and beliefs; and,

WHEREAS the relationship of the Métis Nation to the lands and resources on its traditional territory is at the core of Métis Nation identity, the values transmitted from generation to generation through cultural means, Métis traditional knowledge, and the advancement and protection of our own Michif language; and,

WHEREAS economic development, climate change, environmental protection and improvement of the quality of life of the Métis are priorities of the Métis Nation of Alberta; and,

WHEREAS climate change has a significant impact on Canada's and Alberta's economy which effects the quality of life and the rights of Métis citizens who are significantly vulnerable to climate change; and,

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has introduced the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, and the federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change has

created space for the Métis Nation for Métis-specific dialogue on climate change and the environment; and,

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has recognized engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations as an objective and desired outcome of Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan, through the Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative; and,

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Alberta has engaged with the Government of Alberta on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis through the Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative to ensure a greater and more meaningful role for Alberta Métis in addressing and managing climate change and environmental impacts while creating opportunities for Métis citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MNA Annual General Assembly fully supports the MNA in asserting our expectation that all levels of government fulfill their duty to ensure that principles of fairness, equity and equality are part of the minimum standards in climate change laws, policies and agreements established in order to advance reconciliation with the Métis Nation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MNA General Assembly fully supports the MNA in the review and participation of climate change and environmental policy under the Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative, to ensure Métis rights, interest and concerns are protected, heard and addressed by the Government of Alberta on a nation-to-nation basis with due regard to the Métis Nation's inherent right to self-determination; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MNA 2017 Annual General Assembly fully supports the MNA in designing and undertaking climate change initiatives and programs including actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increasing Métis involvement and awareness of climate change, while creating capacity and economic opportunities for Métis citizens.

Moved by: Karen Collins

Seconded by: Sylvia Johnson

RESOLUTION PASSED