



## Participation at the Citizens' Gathering

There are two primary avenues for participation at the 2024 Citizens' Gathering: proposals and special resolutions.

### Proposals of the Citizens' Gathering

#### ***What is Considered a Proposal?***

The Citizens' Gathering may, by ordinary resolution, adopt proposals to the Citizens' Council.<sup>1</sup> These proposals are verbal and advisory in nature.

A proposal should:

- Address a specific issue or topic relevant to the Métis Nation within Alberta.
- Clearly explain the suggestion or idea.
- Offer a recommended action or solution.

#### ***Example of a Proposal***

Issue: "Many Citizens have expressed concerns about the availability of cultural education programs for our youth."

Suggestion: "I propose that we develop more cultural education programs for youth."

Recommended Action: "I move to propose that our government should explore partnerships with local educators and Elders to create and fund these programs."

#### ***How to Make a Proposal***

1. Prepare your idea: Think about an issue or topic that you believe is important to you and other Citizens' and communities of the Métis Nation within Alberta. Be clear about what you are suggesting and why it matters.
2. Wait for the Chair to open the floor: The Chair will announce when it is time for Citizens to present their proposals; listen carefully for this announcement.
3. Line up at the indicated microphones:
  - a. Once the chair opens the floor for proposals, line up at the designated microphones.
  - b. Wait for your turn in the line.
  - c. Each Citizen must only table one proposal per turn at the microphone to ensure all Citizens have the chance to participate.
4. Address the Chair:
  - a. When it's your turn, begin by addressing the Chair respectfully. For example, "Mr. Chair."

<sup>1</sup> *Self-Government Act, 2023, section 20*

5. State your proposal clearly:
  - a. Once you have been recognized by the Chair, state your proposal as outlined in the example above. “I move to propose that.....”
  - b. Provide a brief description of the reasoning behind the proposal.
  - c. Each proposal must include a clear and concise description of the issue and the proposed advisory action.
  - d. A proposal must be seconded to be considered. If no one seconds the proposal, the matter is not considered.
6. Discussion of proposals:
  - a. After a proposal has been moved and seconded, the floor will be opened for discussion.
  - b. Citizens wishing to speak must be recognized by the Chair.
  - c. Speakers may speak only once per proposal until all interested have spoken.
7. Response to proposals:
  - a. Each motion properly tabled and accepted by the Chair must be resolved (passed, defeated, tabled, or postponed indefinitely).
  - b. The Citizens’ Council must submit a report to the Chair of any actions taken regarding proposals adopted at the preceding Citizens’ Gathering, to be made public no later than 21 days before the next Citizens’ Gathering. The Chair must make this report public in advance of the Gathering.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Self-Government Act, 2023, section 21*

## Special Resolutions

Special resolutions must be submitted to the Chair no less than 22 days in advance of the first day of the Citizens' Gathering to allow for thorough review and decision as indicated in the Notice of Citizens' Gathering.<sup>3</sup>

Special resolutions may be introduced for the following purposes:

- To amend the Bylaws of the Metis Nation of Alberta Association, where such proposed amendment is in compliance with the Constitution and Otipemisiwak Metis Government Law(s);
- To adopt a law for the purpose of ratifying a modern-day treaty or land claims agreement within the meaning of section 35(3) of the Constitution Act, 1982; or
- Another purpose prescribed in Otipemisiwak Metis Government Law.

### ***Decisions Requiring Approval by Special Resolution Under the Societies Act (RSA 2000)***

Article 7.4 of the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association (2023) says:

Other than any matter requiring approval by Special Resolution of the Citizens in accordance with the Act, all matters that are to be voted on by the Citizens' at a Citizens' Gathering will be approved by vote of the Citizens in accordance with procedures to be established under the Constitution and any applicable Law.

In the Bylaws, "Act" means Alberta's *Societies Act*. The following decisions must be decided by special resolution under the *Societies Act*:

- The rescission of, alteration of, or addition to the bylaws of the society (15(1)).
- The alteration of the society's objects (objectives/purposes) to include an object or objects that may conveniently or advantageously be combined with the existing objects of the society, or to restrict or abandon an object of the society (16(1)(a), 16(1)(b)).
- The sanction of the issue of debentures in accordance with the authority of the society's bylaws (18(2)).
- The adoption of an amalgamation agreement (32(3)).
- The surrender of the society's certificate of incorporation (34(1)).
- The authorization of an application for continuance in another jurisdiction (36.3(2)(a)).

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<sup>3</sup> *Citizens' Gathering Rules of Procedure*, June 2024, section 29

## ***How to Draft a Special Resolution for the Citizens' Gathering***

### **1. Title**

- **Clearly state the title of the resolution**, identifying it as a special resolution of the members of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association.

### **2. Preamble (Whereas Clauses)**

- **Context and Justification:** Provide background information, context, and justification for the resolution. Use multiple "Whereas" clauses to build the case.
- **Historical and Legal References:** Cite relevant historical events, laws, policies, and previous actions to support the resolution.

### **3. Resolution Statement (Therefore Clauses)**

- **Specific Action:** Clearly state the specific change to the Bylaws being proposed. Begin with "Therefore, be it resolved that" followed by the action.

### **4. Clarity and Precision**

- **Language:** Use clear, precise, and formal language. Avoid ambiguity.
- **Structure:** Ensure the resolution is well-organized with a logical flow from the preamble to the resolution statement.

## ***Example of a Special Resolution***

### **Special Resolution #1**

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA ASSOCIATION**

**WHEREAS** with the ratification, adoption, and implementation of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, the Métis Nation of Alberta's six large administrative regions are to be transitioned to 22 smaller Districts;

**AND WHEREAS** under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, District Councils are to be established as new District-level governance structures, replacing existing Local Councils and Regional Councils;

**AND WHEREAS** in order to allow for the transition from existing Local Councils and Regional Councils to new District Councils, as contemplated in the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, certain amendments are required to the current bylaws of those Local Councils and Regional Councils;

**AND WHEREAS** the current bylaws of certain existing Local Councils and Regional Councils require that any amendments to such bylaws must be ratified by the Citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta at an Annual Assembly;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved, that:

1. Any amendments to the bylaws of a Local Council or Regional Council that are approved by a special resolution of the members of that Local Council or Regional Council (whether prior to or after the date hereof) are hereby ratified and confirmed, provided that such amendments:
  - (a) Are made for the purpose of transitioning such Local Council or Regional Council (including the interests and assets thereof, as applicable) to one or more District Councils that will represent the Citizens formerly represented by such Local Council or Regional Council;
  - (b) Conform to any requirements set out in the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution and any applicable Otipemisiwak Métis Government laws;
  - (c) Ensure the ongoing local and/or regional level benefit and control, through the District Councils, of any currently held interests and assets of the Local Council or Regional Council; and
  - (d) Meet such other requirements as the Citizens' Council may establish to ensure the effective and orderly transition to District Councils, provided such requirements reflect the spirit and intention of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution.
2. For purposes of this special resolution, any reference to the Citizens' Council shall be read as a reference to the Provincial Council prior to the coming into force of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution.