

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the *Communauté Métisse Autochtone de la Gaspésie et du Bas-Saint-Laurent, Îles-de-la-Madeleine / Gaspé Peninsula, Lower St. Lawrence, Magdalen Island Metis Aboriginal Community held on September 10, 2016, at 13:40 at the Fifty Plus Club, situated at 509 avenue des Micmacs in Chandler*

Present: More than 150 members are present and 141 members have signed the attendance sheet.

Board of Directors: Mr. Benoît Lavoie, Chairman
Lucien Gignac, Secretary-Treasurer
Jean-Pierre Cauvier, Director
Réal Sylvestre, Director
Donat Delarosbil, Director

Guest speaker: Mr. Réjean Martel, genealogist

1. Call to Order by the Chairman Benoît Lavoie

Mr. Benoît Lavoie, Chairman, calls the meeting to order at 13:40 and extends a cordial welcome to everyone who is present.

Mr. Lavoie, presents the new Council of Chiefs, that has replaced the Board of Directors, to the members present at the Annual General Meeting.

I would like to thank you for your participation and your interest by attending the Annual General Meeting and the Special General Meeting.

We have appointed a Council of Chiefs composed by persons who have made an outstanding contribution in 2015-2016, persons who were invited to the Board of Directors and who have shown irreproachable honesty and integrity.

I would therefore like to present the members of the new Council of Chiefs

Resolution: CA-2016-09-01

Premiere nomination of the Board of Directors

- Benoît Lavoie, Chairman, become the Grand Chief of the Metis Nation
- Lucien Gignac, Secretary-Treasurer, becomes the Chief of Membership and Administration
- Jean-Pierre Cauvier becomes the Chief of the MRC Rocher-Percé
- Réal Sylvestre becomes the Chief Ambassador to the First Nations
- Donat Delarosbil becomes the Chief of the Historical Community of Paspébiac

- Raynald Robichaud, Chief of the Wobtegwa Clan (Montmagny region), will occupy a seat on the Council of Chiefs
- Jean-Guy Leblanc becomes Chief Guardian of Water
- Raymond Cyr becomes Chief of Elders and will appoint his Council of Elders and will occupy a seat on the Council of Chiefs
- Bertin Jean becomes the Chief Ambassador of Mother Earth.
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Resolution unanimously adopted by the members present at the A.G.M. of September 10, 2016.

We continue:

This morning at the Special General Meeting important changes took place and important modifications to our by-laws were adopted.

We are now a Nation: La « Nation Métisse Autochtone, Gaspésie, Bas St-Laurent, Îles-de-la-Madeleine », / « Gaspe Peninsula, Lower St-Lawrence, Magdalen Islands, Metis Aboriginal Nation ».

We also adopted a second denomination: « **Nation Métisse du Soleil Levant** » / « **Metis Nation of the Rising Sun** ».

Resolution unanimously adopted by members.

2. Election of A Meeting Chairperson and a Meeting Secretary proposed by the Council of Chiefs (resolution requested by members at the 2014 AGM in Gaspé)

It is proposed by the members present and unanimously accepted that Mr. Maxime Bernard be named Meeting Chairperson. He gladly accepts this mandate.

And it is unanimously adopted to designate Ms. Jacqueline Vézina as the Meeting Secretary. She voluntarily accepts the task.

3. Election of a person in charge of Security and Election President

It is proposed by the members present and unanimously adopted to name Mr Réal Sylvestre, Director, as the person responsible for Security and Election President.

Mr. Sylvestre accepts the mandate.

4. Reading and adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Maxime Bernard, Meeting Chairperson, reads the Agenda. The members present at the A.G.M. unanimously accept the Agenda as read, with a point at the end of the meeting open for subjects submitted by the assembly.

Mr. Bernard also reads the meeting notice and translates it into English.

It is moved to adopt the attached meeting notice for the Annual General Meeting and the Special General Meeting of September 10, 2016, to publish it on the Gaspé Peninsula, Lower St-Lawrence, Magdalen Islands, Metis Aboriginal Community website, to give written notice to members and to publish it in newspapers published on the Gaspé, the Lower St-Lawrence and Magdalen Islands regions as soon as possible.

All members in good standing are convened to the Annual General Meeting of the Gaspé Peninsula, Lower St-Lawrence, Magdalen Islands, Metis Aboriginal Community. Only chief-members (members in good standing) prior to the date of the meeting notice will have the right to vote.

Following verification, it is noted that the quorum of members is attained. Consequently, the meeting continues.

Unanimously accepted by the members present at the AGM of September 10, 2016.

5. Presentation by the Grand Chief, Benoît Lavoie

Resolution: AGA-2016-09-10 (05) Article 2

It was unanimously adopted by the members present at the Special General Meeting to accept Mr. Benoît Lavoie (Chairman) as Grand Chief of the Metis Nation.

The members present at the Annual General Meeting also unanimously adopt and ratify this resolution.

Mr. Benoît Lavoie gives his first presentation as Grand Chief of the Metis Nation.

The 2015-2016 fiscal year was relatively subdued. Only 4 200 members out of a total of 9 000 paid their membership dues. It was a rather difficult year for us, the volunteers on the Board of Directors who work passionately for you.

Another important event of the past year was the voluntary recognition by the Federal Government who invited us to speak before the National Energy Board concerning the Trans-Canada Energy East pipeline.

The expenditures for our lawyers and witnesses will be reimbursed, in fact we had a meeting in Rivière-du-Loup with their representatives at the beginning of August 2014 and received an advance of funds in the amount of 30 000 \$ for expenses incurred.

We requested to give our testimony in the traditional oral Aboriginal manner on October 7, 2016 in Quebec.

We continue our research and won the appeal in the Éric Parent case.

A good year, but on April 14, 2016, the sounds of a majestic awakening of the acknowledgement of our Nation began to be heard.

The Harry Daniel decision was made public, while at the same time the Honourable Judge Huot, was persecuting Ms. Jacinthe Marchand and Stéphane Oakes at the courthouse in Rivière-du-Loup. When he descended from his ivory tower that evening, he most certainly did not sleep well.

Be assured that we will assist Ms. Marchand in disturbing his sleep for many years to come. We will beat these magistrates by using their own weapons; the courts.

We are now more than eight thousand (8 000) active chiefs-members who are asking for Aboriginal status. The mediocre negotiations are now over, we are demanding all of our rights and all of our land without exception. We are a Nation, we belong to the First Nations, our land belongs to us.

We will negotiate with the Federal Government in harmony with the First Nations in the best interests of all First Nations.

We will erect barricades on reserves and we will become the master of our land, the Federal Government will negotiate with us.

The 2016 year was much more active. Our Chief Ambassador of Mother Earth, Mr. Bertin Jean, organized an historical first meeting with the First Nations in Amqui on July 8 & 9, 2016.

This historical meeting for all of us was the result of an invitation extended to your Board of Directors to visit Malioténam and the Innu Spiritual Nation along with their Grand Chief who is also the Grand Shachem, the Honorable Léo St-Onge. At this meeting your Chairman was chosen by the Great Spirit as the Grand Chief of the Metis Nation of the **Rising Sun**. This is our second denomination.

We now self-identify as a Nation among the First Nations, our Spiritual Grand Chief is the Grand Shachem, Léo St-Onge, Grand Chief and we ask for their acknowledgement and protection. We pledge *honour, respect and allegiance* to them.

We then went to Pessamit to receive additional teachings from the Algonquin Nations.

The acceptance of our status is imminent, we must look to the future and continue to advance.

Miggesth, Benoît Lavoie
Grand Chief of the Metis Nation

6. Deposition of the 2015-2016 Financial statements

Mr. Réjean Martel asks for a correction to Point 6 of the Agenda: the fiscal year is 2015-2016 and not the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Ms. Andrée Morin, accountant, presents the financial statements for the fiscal year between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016.

It is unanimously approved by the members present to accept the 2015-2016 financial statements.

Resolution: AGA-2016-09-10-03

The members present at the AGM ask that the Board of Directors present more details for certain items included in the financial statements at future meetings such as: office supplies, postage/messenger services. Ms. Andrée Morin will comply with this request.

Unanimously adopted by the members present.

7. Nomination of an auditor, who is not a chartered accountant, for the accounting records of the 2016-2017 financial year

Considering the very affordable costs, her availability and the quality of services received, it is proposed by the Grand Chief, Mr. Benoît Lavoie, and **unanimously adopted** by the members present at the AGM of the C.M.A.G.B.S.L.I.M. to re-engage Ms. Andrée Morin as the auditor for the accounting records for the 2016-2017 financial year.

Resolution : AGA-2016-09-10-03

Financial Statements

The majority of the members present at the AGM ask that the Board of Directors verify whether it is possible to ask a chartered account to audit the financial records at a lesser cost.

Unanimously adopted by the members present.

8. Resolution to appoint two (2) lawyers for the Community

Resolution: AGA-2016-09-10-04

Mr. Michel Pouliot from Québec, specialized in Aboriginal Civil Rights
Mr. Nérée Cormier from Carleton, defender of our ancestral rights

Unanimously adopted by the members present.

**9. Cases before the courts transferred to the the Federal Civil Court
Metis rights cases before the courts in virtue of the Harry Daniels Decision.**

The Supreme Court of Canada unanimously rendered a decision that Metis and non-status Indians are now considered as Indians in compliance with the Constitution.

«This is great news », stated the Chairman of the Gaspé Peninsula, Lower St. Lawrence, Magdalen Island Metis Aboriginal Community, Mr. Benoît Lavoie. «Today's decision is important because it open doors for us. Yes, finally a decision in favour of the Metis, and not only favourable, but Article 57 states that the Metis are Indians and that, consequently, the Metis have the same rights as Indians. However, we have the burden to prove that we are Metis in compliance with Article 35 of the Canadian Constitution. It is very important and we will continue to move forward with our various cases before the courts.»

He is waiting for additional information to determine the scope of this judgement. But it is certain that the Metis and Indians living outside of reserves have the same rights in virtue of this judgement. The final hurdle is to obtain status. »

To do so, the community must support its administrators, stated the Chairman of the Metis Community. « Our members must continue to support us in our legal battle considering the fact that the Federal Government is delaying the recognition of our status. If we must go before judges in the Supreme Court of Canada, we will not hesitate to do so. It is clear that they have no other choice than to acknowledge us as Metis, in compliance with Article 35 of the Constitution, with the same rights as Indians. We will be presenting a case in the Civil Court for the acknowledgement of Aboriginal rights in order to force the governments to respect our constitutional rights », concluded the Chairman of the Community.

10. The Energy East pipeline project

The Gaspé Peninsula, Lower St. Lawrence, Magdalen Island Metis Aboriginal Community (GPLSLMIMAC) is opposed to petrol exploration projects by fragmentation in the ZEC Bas-Saint-Laurent, as well as throughout its territory, including Anticosti Island.

The Petrolympic Project targets the zone close to the *lac des Chasseurs*. This lake, along with *lac Long*, are the source of an immense hydrographical basin that extends to the Bay of Chaleurs.

According to Benoît Lavoie, Chairman of the Metis Community, « the governments have a moral obligation to consider our Metis Aboriginal Community. They must notify us concerning projects that have a direct influence on the future of natural resources in our Community's entire territory. »

No project of this size will be feasible without an eventual moratorium on petroleum exploitation preceded by a consultation in good faith with the Community, added the spokesperson of the latter.

The Community, that represents 12 000 members, is claiming Anticosti Island as a sector linked to the activities of the Aboriginal and Metis communities. The main objective of this action is to protect the island against future petroleum projects using a fragmentation process.

« It is important to note that more than 80 % of Gaspesians, as well as the former Acadian population, have Metis ancestry» added Mr. Lavoie.

The Board of Directors of the *Société de gestion des ressources du Bas-Saint-Laurent*, that manages the *ZEC du Bas-Saint-Laurent*, has already voiced its opposition to the Petrolympic project by resolution earlier in June. The Society considers « that this type of industrial exploration within its territory is incompatible with our mandate of management and wildlife preservation, as well as recreation-tourist activities.»

« We believe that it is primordial that each organization that is interconnected with wildlife, in any manner whatsoever, adopt a resolution that clearly states the incompatible character of this type of exploitation with our common objective of preservation » added the managers.

11. Guest speaker: Mr. Réjean Martel, genealogist

Mr. Réjean Martel answers many questions from members present concerning their origins and family names.

12. Additional points of discussion

12.1 The suspension of Mr. Pierre Henry

One of the members present at the AGM asks the Grand Chief Benoît Lavoie about the reason for the suspension of Mr. Pierre Henry.

The Grand Chief explains to the members present at the AGM that the suspension of Mr. Pierre Henry is in compliance with Articles 22.1 to 25 of the section «**Legal Recourse**» of our general by-laws.

12.2. Ratification of resolutions adopted by the Council of Chiefs Acknowledgement of the status of Nation

After having read the proposed resolutions of the General Special Meeting of September 10, 2016, all of the members present at the AGM *unanimously accept* to adopt and ratify the following resolutions:

- ✓ Resolution concerning by-laws and definitions to be repealed and modified to include our new status of Nation that must be ratified by members;
- ✓ Resolution modifying the status of Directors to that of Chiefs on the Council of Chiefs, that must be ratified by members;
- ✓ Nomination of Chiefs to the Council of Chiefs by the Grand Chief Benoît Lavoie that must be ratified by members;
- ✓ Ratification of resolutions adopted by the Council of Chiefs (Board of Directors) concerning modifications to the new denomination where the word Community will be repealed and replaced by Nation, that must be ratified by members;
- ✓ Approval of a second denomination for our Metis Nation: Nation Métis du Soleil Levant / Nation of the Rising Sun.

13. Adjournment of the meeting

Before adjourning the meeting, the Meeting Chairperson thanks everyone for participating.

It is unanimously adopted to adjourn the meeting at 17:30.

Maxime Bernard,
Meeting Chairperson

Jacqueline Vézina,
Meeting Secretary