

SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER: MMF LOCAL BYLAW CONSULTATION

Purpose: To directly engage Red River Métis Citizens in a collaborative consultation process to gather their insights and expertise for the revision of the MMF Local Bylaw within the **Constitution**, ensuring it reflects the needs and priorities of the Red River Métis and upholds the principles of democratic governance, transparency, and accountability.



PLEASE ENTER YOUR
CITIZENSHIP NUMBER TO HAVE
YOUR FEEDBACK INCLUDED

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A LETTER TO RED RIVER MÉTIS CITIZENS

DAVID CHARTRAND

President



My fellow Red River Métis Citizens,

As we embark on this important journey of reviewing and revising our MMF Local Bylaws, I want to emphasize the significance of your participation in this process. Resolution 8, our inherent right to self-determination, and our duty to consult, are not merely external principles we uphold in our dealings with other governments – they are the very foundation upon which our internal governance rests.

We firmly believe that you, Red River Métis Citizens, hold the knowledge and wisdom necessary to shape bylaws that truly serve our collective needs at the Local level.

The MMF Modern Day Treaty, an historic achievement in our ongoing efforts for self-government, will have an impact on our governance structures, including Local Bylaws. This is our chance to ensure that the bylaws aligns with the Treaty's provisions and empowers our Locals to thrive in this new era of the Red River Métis.

Throughout the negotiations with Canada, I refused to allow government negotiators to dictate changes to our MMF Constitution. Our Constitution is a vital document, created by the people for the people, and it is the people alone who have the power to amend it. This principle extends to our Local Bylaws as well. Your voice matters.

As you engage with this workbook, I urge you to think not only of the present but also of the future. What kind of governance structures will best serve our People in the years to come? What are your hopes and aspirations for the Red River Métis? This is your chance to share those dreams with your leadership and help shape bylaws that reflect our collective vision.

We must never forget, it has been the Locals that have been the backbone of our democracy. Your work connects us with those from the past, those today, and those in the future. Locals will always be fundamental to the governance and self-determination of our Nation.

Together, let us continue to build upon the foundation that we have created so far, and let our contributions stand as a testament to our belief in unity and respect, as we stand on the principles of protecting our identity and defending our democracy.

Meeqwetch,

President David Chartrand

Believe in Yourself, Believe in Métis!

GREETINGS FROM MINISTER MAYER

MINISTER JUDY MAYER



My fellow Red River Métis Citizens,

On behalf of the Governance Committee, welcome to the consultation process of our MMF Local Bylaw within our Constitution.

The Local Bylaw is an important part of the growth and evolution of our governance systems. As President Chartrand has emphasized, our inherent right to self-determination is the very bedrock of our governance.

Throughout our history, the Red River Métis have been recognized as staunch defenders of democracy and steadfast protectors of our distinct identity. This legacy is woven into the fabric of our Nation, guiding our actions and shaping our vision for the future. It is in this spirit that we undertake the crucial work of reviewing and revising our Local Bylaw.

Just as President Chartrand and Cabinet protect the principle that our Constitution is by the people for the people, and amendable only by the people, so too is our Local Bylaw. It is an important tool that empowers our grassroots leadership to effectively represent our Red River Métis Government.

This Workbook is designed to gather input from Red River Métis Citizens. It is also available on our website, mmf.mb.ca, along with an online survey. We encourage you to share this information with your fellow Citizens, as this consultation is open to everyone who has their Citizenship number.

By sharing your insights and contributions, you are directly participating in shaping the future of our governance and ensuring that our Local Bylaw reflects our collective will and protects the very essence of who we are as a People.

I am incredibly proud of our National Government's commitment to inclusivity, ensuring our Citizens are at the heart of decision-making at every level. I thank President Chartrand for his visionary leadership and his confidence in the Governance Committee. I also extend my gratitude to the Cabinet for their tireless work on behalf of the Red River Métis.

I eagerly anticipate your contributions, and together we will present our revised Local Bylaw for the Nation's acceptance at the AGA 2025.

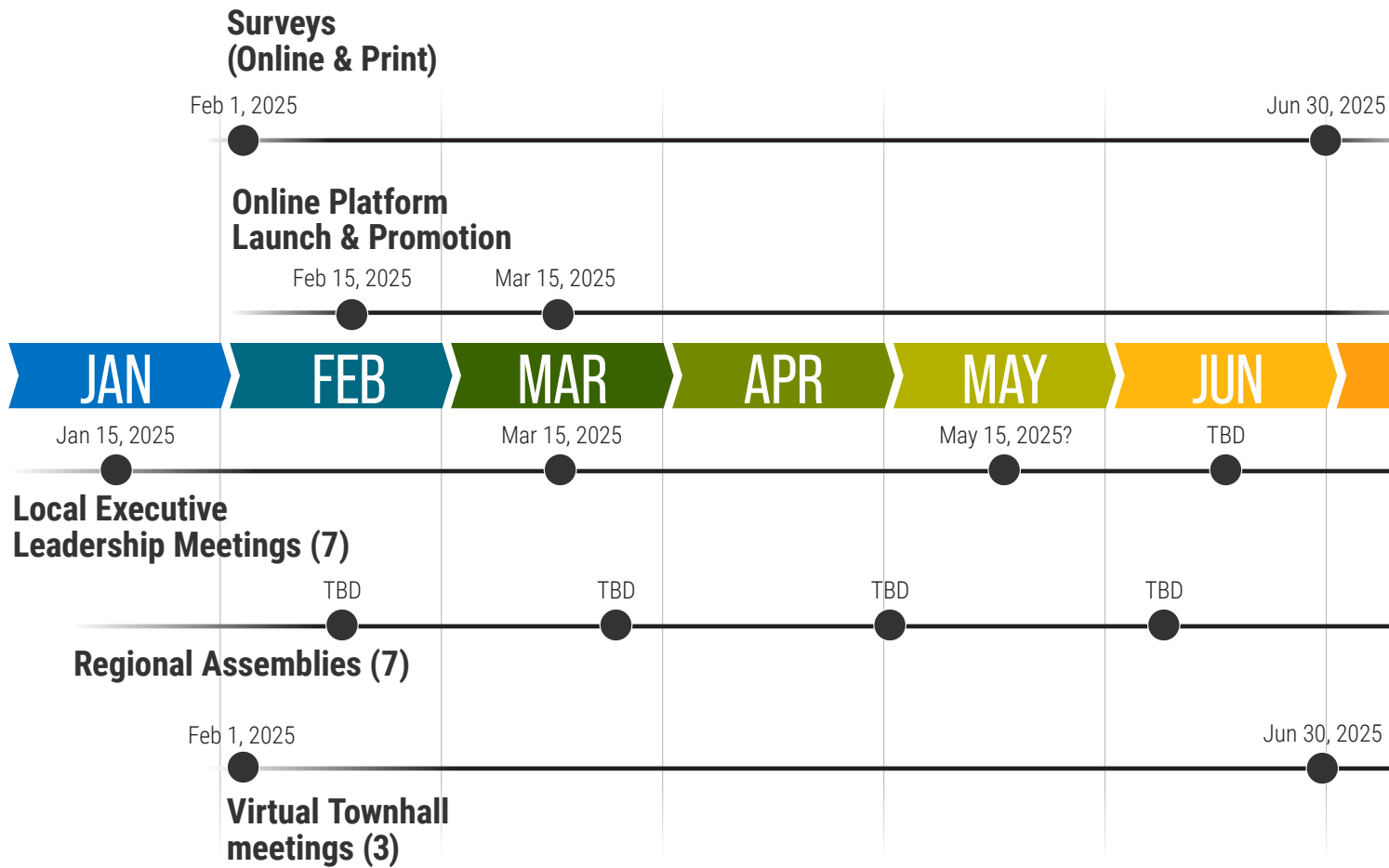
Sincerely,

Judy Mayer

Minister of Constitution, Rights and Governance

Manitoba Métis Federation

LOCAL BYLAW AMENDMENT TIMELINE & MILESTONES



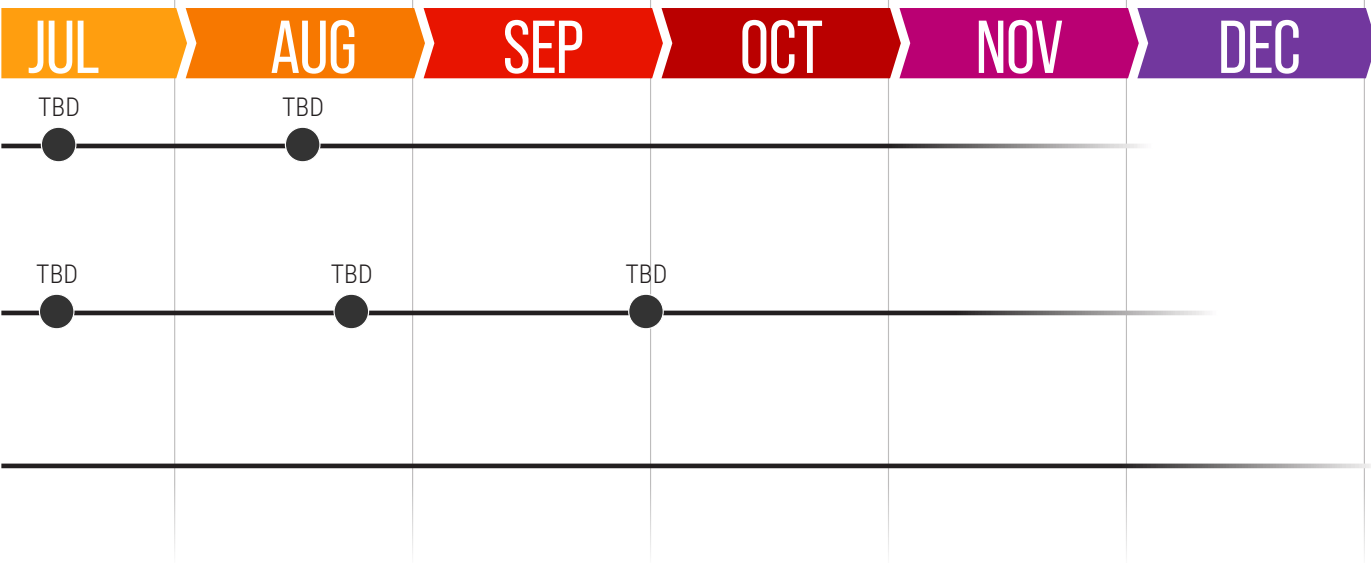
The wording of any proposed by-law amendment shall be forwarded by the MMF Cabinet to each Regional Office at least 25 days prior to the AGA.

25 days before AGA



Each Regional Office shall distribute the wording of the proposed by-law amendment to each Local at least 21 days before the commencement of the AGA.

21 days before AGA



INTRODUCTION

This workbook is your vehicle to provide feedback as part of the Local Bylaw consultations. Our goal is to achieve ratification of the revised MMF Local Bylaw at the MMF Annual General Assembly (AGA) on October 17-19, 2025. By actively participating in this process as an MMF Citizen, you help to ensure that the revised local bylaw reflects the needs and aspirations of the Red River Métis.



WHY DOES THE MMF CONSULT?

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE: Upholds the fundamental principle of self-determination by giving Citizens a voice in the laws that govern them. Fosters a sense of ownership and shared responsibility.

RELEVANCE & EFFECTIVENESS: Ensures the local bylaw reflects the current needs, values, and priorities of the Red River Métis. Increases the likelihood of successful implementation and compliance.

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY: Demonstrates the MMF's commitment to transparency and accountability to its Citizens. Builds trust and strengthens the relationship between our National Government and our People.

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP: Promotes a sense of community ownership over the Local Bylaw. Encourages Citizens to actively participate in the governance of their Local and the MMF as a whole.

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

Workbook questions are divided into three sections as shown below. These sections correspond to items in the Local Executive Governance Workshop and are numbered accordingly.



AGENDA ITEM 6

CURRENT LOCAL BYLAW REVIEW

Gauges Citizen familiarity with the existing Local Bylaw. Identifies knowledge gaps the MMF needs to address through education and outreach.

Assesses Citizen satisfaction and pinpoints areas of the Local Bylaw that are working well or require improvement.



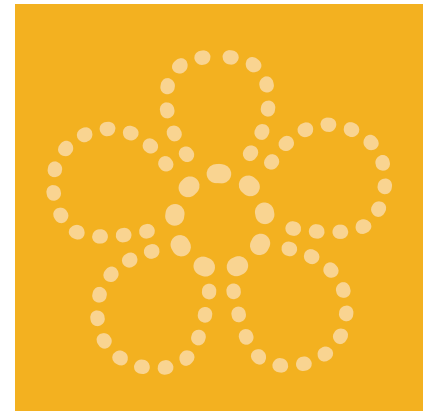
AGENDA ITEM 7

VISIONING THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE

DEEP DIVE INTO SPECIFIC LOCAL BYLAW PROVISIONS

Provides a platform for Citizens to voice their opinions and suggest concrete changes.

Encourages active participation in the Local Bylaw review process.



AGENDA ITEM 9

RED RIVER MÉTIS IDENTITY AND CITIZENSHIP

Captures diverse perspectives on identity, belonging, and the evolving nature of Citizenship.

CLICK HERE TO READ

Manitoba Métis Federation and The Manitoba Métis Federation Inc. Constitution (Ratified Oct 2024)

AGENDA ITEM 6

REVIEW OF THE EXISTING LOCAL BYLAW



KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT

The following questions help us to assess your familiarity with the existing Local Bylaw. The answers will also help to identify knowledge gaps the MMF needs to address through education and outreach.



AGENDA ITEM 6

QUESTIONS

Manitoba Métis Federation and
The Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.
Constitution (Ratified Oct 2024)

**HAVE YOU READ THE CURRENT
MMF LOCAL BYLAW?**

Yes No Partially

(Circle one)

**HOW WELL DO YOU
UNDERSTAND THE LOCAL
BYLAW'S PROVISIONS ON:**

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| A. ELECTIONS
FOR LOCALS? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. CITIZENSHIP
IN LOCALS? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C. MEETINGS
OF LOCALS ? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

(Circle one per row: 1 = Not at all, 5 = Very well)

**WHAT ROLE DO YOU BELIEVE
THE LOCAL PLAYS WITHIN
MMF GOVERNANCE?**

Please enter your answer here:

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE
LOCAL'S RESPONSIBILITIES?**

Please enter your answer here:

AGENDA ITEM 6

REVIEW OF THE EXISTING LOCAL BYLAW



EFFECTIVENESS

The following questions help us to assess Citizen satisfaction and pinpoint areas of the Local Bylaw that are working well or require improvement.



AGENDA ITEM 6

QUESTIONS

Manitoba Métis Federation and
The Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.
Constitution (Ratified Oct 2024)

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE WHAT YOU
THINK THE RIGHTS OF MEMBERS
WITHIN A LOCAL SHOULD BE?**

Please enter your answer here:

**WHAT ASPECTS OF THE
CURRENT LOCAL BYLAW
WORK WELL?**

Please enter your answer here:

**WHAT AREAS COULD
BE IMPROVED?**

Please enter your answer here:

AGENDA ITEM 7

VISIONING THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE



OPEN-ENDED FEEDBACK

The following questions provide a platform for you to participate actively in the Local Bylaw review process. Voice your opinion and suggest concrete changes.



AGENDA ITEM 7

Manitoba Métis Federation and
The Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.
Constitution (Ratified Oct 2024)

QUESTIONS

**HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE
CURRENT LOCAL BYLAW IN
SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL
IN THESE KEY AREAS:**

(Circle one per row: 1 = Not effective, 5 = Very effective)

- A. DISPUTE RESOLUTION?** 1 2 3 4 5
- B. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT?** 1 2 3 4 5
- C. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION?** 1 2 3 4 5

**DOES THE LOCAL BYLAW CURRENTLY
REFLECT YOUR LOCAL'S NEEDS AND
PRIORITIES? IF NOT, WHAT CHANGES
WOULD HELP?**

Please enter your answer here:

**ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC PARTS OF
THE LOCAL BYLAW THAT MAKE IT
DIFFICULT FOR LOCALS TO SERVE
THEIR MEMBERS? IF SO, WHICH ONES?**

Please enter your answer here:

AGENDA ITEM 7

DEEP DIVE INTO SPECIFIC LOCAL BYLAW PROVISIONS



SPECIFIC TOPICS

The following questions are for you to provide targeted feedback on key areas of the Local Bylaw. This helps the MMF understand the potential consequences of proposed amendments from the Citizen perspective.



AGENDA ITEM 7

QUESTIONS

Manitoba Métis Federation and
The Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.
Constitution (Ratified Oct 2024)

**WHAT SPECIFIC CHANGES, IF ANY,
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MADE TO
THE MMF LOCAL BYLAW?**

Please enter your answer here:

**ARE THERE ANY NEW PROVISIONS
THAT SHOULD BE ADDED? IF SO,
WHAT SHOULD THEY COVER?**

Please enter your answer here:

**SHOULD ANY PARTS OF THE
LOCAL BYLAW BE REMOVED
OR REVISED? WHY?**

Please enter your answer here:

AGENDA ITEM 7

DEEP DIVE INTO SPECIFIC LOCAL BYLAW PROVISIONS



SPECIFIC TOPICS

The following questions are for you to provide targeted feedback on key areas of the Local Bylaw. This helps the MMF understand the potential consequences of proposed amendments from the Citizen's perspective.



AGENDA ITEM 7

QUESTIONS

Manitoba Métis Federation and
The Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.
Constitution (Ratified Oct 2024)

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: SHOULD THE LOCAL BYLAW INCLUDE CLEARER FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS? WHAT LEVEL OF FINANCIAL AUTONOMY SHOULD LOCALS HAVE?

Please enter your answer here:

MEETINGS & COMMUNICATION: HOW SHOULD THE LOCAL BYLAW ENCOURAGE BETTER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LOCALS AND MMF'S CENTRAL GOVERNMENT?

Please enter your answer here:

AGENDA ITEM 9

RED RIVER MÉTIS IDENTITY & CITIZENSHIP



PERSPECTIVE

These questions seek to capture diverse perspectives on identity, belonging, and the evolving nature of Citizenship.



AGENDA ITEM 9

Manitoba Métis Federation and
The Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.
Constitution (Ratified Oct 2024)

QUESTIONS

HOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE IDEA OF GENEALOGICAL CONNECTION AS IT RELATES TO OUR RED RIVER MÉTIS IDENTITY? IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU SEE THIS CONNECTION—TRADITIONALLY BASED ON HISTORIC ANCESTRY—SHAPING OUR SENSE OF CITIZENSHIP AND BELONGING AS CITIZENS OF OUR NATION?

Please enter your answer here:

IN THINKING ABOUT IDENTITY AND BELONGING, WHAT PERSPECTIVES DO YOU HAVE ON THE VARIOUS PATHWAYS—WHETHER THROUGH GENEALOGY OR OTHER AVENUES (SUCH AS ADOPTION)—THAT MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO CITIZENSHIP?

Please enter your answer here:

WRAP-UP & NEXT STEPS



THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

To ensure the consultation process itself is inclusive and effective, these questions gather insights to improve future communication and implementation strategies.



AGENDA ITEM 10

QUESTIONS

Manitoba Métis Federation and
The Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.
Constitution (Ratified Oct 2024)

**WAS THIS FOCUS GROUP SESSION
HELPFUL IN ALLOWING YOU TO
SHARE YOUR INPUT?**

Please enter your answer here:

**HOW CAN MMF IMPROVE
COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT
WITH LOCAL EXECUTIVES ABOUT
LOCAL BYLAW CHANGES?**

Please enter your answer here:

APPENDIX A: TREATY TRANSITION UPDATE

RED RIVER MÉTIS SELF-GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION AND IMPLEMENTATION TREATY TRANSITION PROCESS

INTRODUCTION:

On November 30, 2024 Canada and the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) signed the *Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty Between The Red River Métis And His Majesty The King In Right of Canada*.

As per the Treaty's Preamble, "With this Treaty, the Parties confirm their commitment to a collaborative process to advance reconciliation and to renew and enhance their nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship based on the recognition, affirmation, and implementation of the rights of the Red River Métis, including Red River Métis section 35 rights, as well as respect, cooperation, and partnership."

WHAT IS THE TREATY?

For an overview, the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty is a modern Treaty that recognizes:

- The Red River Métis is a distinct Indigenous People;
- Red River Métis is the Legal Body – not the MMF – as the MMF will remain the Government of the Red River Métis but the MMF Inc. (as the Corporation) will no longer exist after Treaty becomes Effective after being ratified by Canada's Parliament;
- Our rights of Self-Determination and Self-Government, including our Particular Red River Métis Jurisdictions (outlined in the Transition Process below);

- Our Citizens are inside and outside of Manitoba as well as outside of Canada;
- MMF is the Exclusive Government of the Red River Métis;
- MMF role, functions & authority;
- MMF accountability to our Citizens;
- Once the Treaty's Implementation Legislation is passed by Canada's Parliament, and receives Royal Assent and therefore ratified, the Treaty becomes "Effective" and constitutionally protected by the Canadian Constitution.

WHAT IT IS NOT:

The Treaty does not

- extinguish/take away any of our s.35 Rights.
- make us subject to the Indian Act or make us First Nations.
- include tax exemptions for Individuals which are found in the Indian Act. Red River Métis will continue to pay income tax.
- resolve our outstanding Land Claim.
- force us to change our governance institutions or systems. Rather it recognizes our existing governance institutions.

TRANSITION PROCESS:

Consistent with the Treaty, in the coming months and indeed over the years, and in some cases working with Canada, the MMF will undertake a self-initiated and self-directed transition process. This transition process will continue to implement our rights of self-determination and self-government which may include reviews, revisions, and creation of policies, processes, and laws within the areas of our Particular Red River Métis Jurisdictions recognized by the Treaty. These Jurisdictions are:

- Red River Métis Citizenship;
- Selection of MMF Representatives [Elections];
- MMF Structures, Operations, Procedures, Assets, Financial Management, and Financial Accountability;
- Accountability [to our Citizens];
- Administration, Enforcement, Prosecution, and Adjudication [of Governance Laws].

THE MMF CONSTITUTION:

The Treaty protects the MMF Constitution as it was “first adopted in 1967 and subsequently amended over the years, as it may be amended from time to time;” In many cases the above work, as part of the transition process, will include further amendments (revisions) to our MMF Constitution.

The MMF Constitution is our supreme Red River Métis Law. It can only be revised by express consent of the MMF Annual General Assembly (AGA). The AGA expresses the will of the Red River Métis as a sovereign collective. The MMF Constitution provides the solid foundation for our self-government.

The Treaty recognizes our governance institutions as they currently are and makes it clear that the MMF can change and strengthen as necessary and desired. At the future Effective Date of the Treaty, the MMF Inc., which is a corporation, will no longer exist. This will require development of future policies, procedures, and Red River Métis Laws to replace corporate rules legally necessary in the past.

Some specific areas in the transition process are now underway, while others are anticipated to be included, are:

- Updating our Constitution: This has been ongoing as we have been moving away from the corporate language towards governance language;
- Establishing a Registry of Laws: This has already been put in place. As new Red River Métis Laws are created (Acts and Regulations), by the AGA and the Cabinet, these will be contained in the Registry;
- Reviewing the structures and relationships with current for-profit and not-for-profit Affiliates;
- Reviewing, and if appropriate revising or creating, the various by-laws for Regions and Locals.

SUMMARY:

As we move forward to implement the Treaty, before and after the Effective Date, and pursue our self-determination and self-government, your MMF Cabinet and Staff remain committed to closely consult and work with our Citizens to develop our future governance institutions.

APPENDIX B: DRAFT MMF CONSTITUTION ARTICLE IV

Disclaimer: The MMF Central Registry Office and the MMF Governance Committee have identified potential amendments to Article IV (2) of the MMF Constitution dealing with the application process for Citizenship. These amendments have not yet been reviewed nor approved by the MMF Cabinet. They are being provided as part of this consultation process for discussion purposes only, and may not be approved by the MMF Cabinet as currently worded or at all.

2. APPLICATION PROCESS

- (a) All persons seeking to become Citizens or Children Citizens, except Honorary Membership, ~~shall~~ **will** be admitted in accordance with the provision of this Article.
- (b) Applications for Citizenship ~~shall~~ **will** be made **in accordance with Red River Métis Laws and in accordance with such procedures, policies, and regulations as established by MMF Cabinet. a form established from time to time by resolution of the MMF Cabinet.**
- (c) Consistent with demonstrating Red River Métis Citizenship, the application **process will include the MMF Local and Region** ~~shall be submitted to the Local of the MMF, or the Local in care of the Regional Office,~~ which represents the:
 - (i) Birthplace of the applicant; or,
 - (ii) Childhood residence or current residence of the applicant; or,
 - (iii) Place in which the applicant has a direct ancestral connection as evidenced by a genealogy including supporting evidentiary documents.

For the purpose of this Article, “demonstrable connection”, “residence”, and “direct ancestral connection” ~~shall~~ **will** bear the meaning established by **such procedures, policies, and regulations as established by MMF Cabinet** ~~resolution of the MMF Cabinet.~~

- (d) **Once the MMF has received an application for Citizenship, a decision process will take place which will be determined by, and outlined in, such procedures, policies, and regulations as established by MMF Cabinet** ~~All applications for Citizenship shall be submitted to the Regional Executive by the receiving Local. The Regional Executives shall consider each application, and in accordance with such procedures as may be established by the MMF Cabinet, shall recommend acceptance or rejection of the application, or shall return the application to the applicant along with a request for further specified information respecting the application.~~
- (e) **The decision on an application for Citizenship will be provided to the applicant by registered mail or in-person delivery by the MMF.** ~~Recommendations by the Regional Executives in accordance with clause (c) shall be made to the MMF Cabinet who shall decide whether to accept or reject such applications. The MMF Cabinet's decision shall be forthwith delivered by registered post or personally to the applicant.~~
- (f) The MMF Cabinet may delegate its decision-making authority described in (b) and (d) to the Regional Executive or any such other committee as may be determined from time to time by resolution of the MMF Cabinet.



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