



**MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL MEETING**
held November 21, 2023

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting held November 21, 2023, in the Wildhorse 2 Meeting Room, at Dakota Dunes Resort, 203 Dakota Dunes Way, Whitecap, Saskatchewan.

PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL: *(attended in-person or by videoconference)*

Present

Glen McCallum, President	Billy Kennedy, Western Region 1A
Michelle LeClair, Vice President	Loretta King, Western Region 1
Lisa McCallum, Secretary	Autumn Laing-LaRose, Provincial Métis Youth Council
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region 3	Darlene Langan, Les Filles de Madeleine (LFDM)
Laura Burnouf, Northern Region 1	Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2
Brent Digness, Eastern Region 2	Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2
Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3	Kathie Pruden Nansel, Western Region 2A
Wendy Gervais, Western Region 3	

Absent

Ryan Carriere, Eastern Region 1	Tim Roussin, Eastern Region 2A
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ALSO PRESENT:

Merelda Fiddler-Potter, Chair
Elder Norman Fleury
Michael Gatin, Commissioner for the Review of Locals (Item 10.1)
Brian Heinrichs, Virtus Group LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants (Item 8.1)
Elder Max Morin
Sheryl Noete, Virtus Group LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants (Item 8.1)

MN-S OFFICE: *(additional MN-S representatives attended as “Observers”)*

Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer
Erin Reid, Chief Strategy Officer
Matt Vermette, Chief Operating Officer
Chris Gall, Deputy Chief / Senior General Counsel
Dorothy Myo, Deputy Chief of Self-Government
Brandy Laronde, Manager, Cabinet and Legislative Services
Claire Letendre, Technical Support
Brennan Merasty, Advisor to the President

PREPARATION OF MINUTES:

Carrie Peacock, Recording Secretary

AGENDA VARIED

The order of the agenda varied at the meeting. Items are presented in these minutes in the order they were considered and are numbered as indicated on the approved agenda.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Merelda Fiddler-Potter, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:15 a.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Norman Fleury provided an Opening Prayer.

3. ROLL CALL

A roll call was conducted, and it was confirmed that quorum was present.

4. OPENING REMARKS

President McCallum acknowledged some recent and upcoming events, and commented on:

- Agreements the MN-S had achieved, including with the University of Saskatchewan and the Province of Saskatchewan
- Discussions with Regional Directors on potential economic development opportunities
- Ongoing efforts to address social challenges, including high incarceration and apprehension rates, the impacts of substance abuse, and the rise in gang activities.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was MOVED (Leonard Montgrand) and SECONDED (Marg Friesen)

That the Agenda for the November 21, 2023, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting be approved, as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Roll Call
4. Opening Remarks
5. Approval of the Agenda:
 - 5.1 Approval of the Consent Agenda:
 - Appointing the Recording Secretary – Carrie Peacock
 - Approval of the October 4 and 17, 2023, PMC Minutes
 - 5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes
6. Request for Action: Update on RFA230425-04 List of Locals
7. Resolutions:
 - 7.1 Approval of the Audited Financial Statements for 2022/2023
 - 7.2 Appointment of the Auditor for 2023/2024
 - 7.3 MNLA Schedule for 2024/2025
8. MNLA Resolution:
 - 8.1 Increasing Transparency and Promoting Accountability
9. In-Camera:
 - 9.1 Commission for the Review of Locals - Final Report
 - 9.2 Board Appointments:
 - 10.2.1 Gabriel Dumont Institute
 - 10.2.2 Clarence Campeau Development Fund
 - 9.3 Legal Updates
 - 9.4 Agenda for the Métis National Council General Assembly
 - 9.5 Human Resources Update
10. Conclusion and Closing Prayer.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (231121-01)

5.1 Approval of the Consent Agenda

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Minutes of the October 4 and 17, 2023, MN-S PMC Meetings

It was MOVED (Laura Burnouf) and SECONDED (Darlene Langan)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC) approves the following items presented on the “Consent Agenda”:

- Appointment of Carrie Peacock as Recording Secretary for the November 21, 2023 PMC Meeting; and
- Adoption of the Minutes of the October 4 and 17, 2023, PMC Meetings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (231121-02)

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

During discussion on some previous PMC decisions, updates were provided on the following:

- RFA230425-04: The list of Locals represented at MNLAs since 2017, was being developed
- Members selected to participate on the LFDM Committee, will be contacted to confirm their consent to participate; letters will then be sent to each, confirming their appointments
- Scheduling “Workshops on the Financial Audited Statements” during the Discussion Forum, prior to the Spring 2024 MNLA.

Request for Action (RFA-231121-01)

It was requested that future attendance lists attached to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly minutes, indicate the name of each attendee’s Local.

Request for Action (RFA-231121-02)

It was requested that the agenda for the next Provincial Métis Council meeting include updates on the appointments made to Les Filles de Madeleine Committee; and the Health Equity Fund.

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 10:05 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m. Brian Heinrichs and Sheryl Noete, Virtus Group LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, were present when the meeting resumed.

7. RESOLUTIONS

7.1 Approval of the Audited Financial Statements for 2022/2023

Related information (provided with the agenda): “Audited Financial Statements of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc., for the year ending March 31, 2023”, and accompanying statements, notes and schedules

Brian Heinrichs and Sheryl Noete, Virtus Group LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, led the meeting in a review of the “Audited Financial Statements of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc., for the year ending March 31, 2023”, the statements of the Financial Position, Operations, and Cash Flows, and accompanying notes and schedules.

During discussion, additional comments were offered on:

- The “Audit Completion Report” prepared by the Auditor, which explained the audit process
- The reference to an “unqualified audit”, which confirmed that the Auditor did not find any errors and was confident that the financial statements were not materially misstated.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Brent Digness)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC), at their duly held meeting on November 21, 2023 reviewed the draft audited financial statements of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc. for the year ending March 31, 2023;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC approves the draft audited financial statements of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc. for the year ending March 31, 2023, which includes statements of the financial position, operations, and cash flows, and accompanying notes and schedules.

CARRIED (231121-03)

11:10 a.m.

Brian Heinrichs and Sheryl Noete, Virtus Group LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, left the meeting.

7.2 Appointment of the Auditor for 2023/2024

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Resolution titled, “Appointment of the Auditor”, dated November 21, 2023

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)

WHEREAS Section 5(a) of the *Bylaws of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc.*, provides that the audited financial statements of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc. be placed before the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA); and

WHEREAS the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) has approved the audited financial statements of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc. for the year ending March 31, 2023, completed by Virtus Group LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC recommends Virtus Group LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, to be the auditors of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc. for the fiscal year 2023-2024, ending March 31, 2024.

CARRIED (231121-04)

Thanks were extended to the Virtus Group LLP and to MN-S staff for their support, which contributed to the completion of the financial statements.

7.3 MNLA Schedule for 2024/2025

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Resolution titled, “MNLA Schedule for 2024/2025”, dated November 21, 2023

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- The objective of the Special 2025 MNLA, to consider matters related to self-government and treaty making; and the 2025 General Assembly, to consider constitutional amendments
- Discussions scheduled at the Spring 2024 MNLA on proposed amendments to the *Constitution* and the *Elections Act*
- A vote anticipated on the final proposed amendments to the *Constitution*, *Elections Act*, *Locals Act*, and *Regions Act* at the Fall 2024 MNLA.

It was MOVED (Glen McCallum) and SECONDED (Michelle LeClair)

WHEREAS Article 3.10 of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* (the “*Constitution*”) authorizes the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) to set the date and place for each sitting of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA);

WHEREAS the process of nation building occurs in progressive stages and may require a Special MNLA for the adoption of legislation and other governing instruments to ensure good governance and accountability;

WHEREAS constitutional amendments are expected to be considered by delegates of the Fall 2024 MNLA, and will require ratification by a General Assembly as per the *Constitution*;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MNLAs be held at Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth Street West, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on the following dates:

- Spring 2024 MNLA: May 24-26, 2024
- Fall 2024 MNLA: November 22-24, 2024
- Special 2025 MNLA: February 8-9, 2025
- Spring 2025 MNLA: April 4-6, 2025
- Fall 2025 MNLA: November 28-30, 2025;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a General Assembly be tentatively scheduled on December 7, 2024, recognizing that this may be modified depending on the determination of need, by the PMC.

CARRIED (231121-05)

8. MNLA RESOLUTION

8.1 Increasing Transparency and Promoting Accountability

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft resolution on “Increasing Transparency and Promoting Accountability”

Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer, led the meeting in a review of a draft resolution received for consideration at the MNLA.

9. IN-CAMERA

It was agreed to adjourn the current meeting and convene an in-camera meeting to consider the following:

- 9.1 Commission for the Review of Locals - Final Report
- 9.2 Board Appointments
- 9.3 Legal Update
- 9.4 Métis National Council – Agenda for the General Assembly
- 9.5 Human Resources Update.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned with a prayer offered by Elder Norman Fleury.

It was MOVED (Kathie Pruden Nansel) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)

That the November 21, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting now adjourn for an in-camera discussion.

CARRIED (231121-06)

Time: 12:00 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

It was MOVED (Michelle LeClair) and SECONDED (Loretta King)

That the November 21, 2023, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting now reconvene.

CARRIED (231121-07)

(Time: 5:30 p.m.)

5:40 p.m.

Merelda Fiddler-Potter, Chair, left the meeting.

9.4 Agenda for the Métis National Council (MNC) General Assembly

Related information (provided with the agenda): “DRAFT Agenda for the December 13-14, 2023 MNC General Assembly”

During discussion on the agenda, comments were offered on:

- Clarifications for the MNC agenda, including:
 - o Loretta King will be singing the Métis Anthem (not “O Canada”)
 - o The “What We Heard Report” by Lynne Toupin, should be omitted as it is not completed
- Suggested additions for the MNC agenda, including:
 - o The MNC 2021 and 2022 resolutions, being considered by the MNC Expert Panel
 - o An update on *Bill C-92, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*
 - o A Report on Current MNC Priorities
 - o Updates on the MNC Leadership Tables
 - o An Update on the Veterans Fund.

Request for Action (RFA-231121-03)

It was requested that a report be prepared for a future Provincial Métis Council meeting explaining the role of the Métis National Council.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

It was confirmed that Raina LaCroix, Sea Cadet, would be recognized at the MNLA for receiving the Cadet Medal of Excellence, and would be appointed as a Dumont’s Scout.

11. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting concluded at 6:35 p.m. with a Closing Prayer offered by Elder Max Morin.

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LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were presented for consideration at the meeting:

1. Draft Agenda for the November 21, 2023, MN-S PMC Meeting
2. Draft Minutes of the October 4 and 17, 2023, MN-S PMC Meetings
3. Audited Financial Statements of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc., for the year ending March 31, 2023”, and accompanying statements, notes and schedules
4. Draft Resolution titled, “Appointment of the Auditor”, dated November 21, 2023
5. Draft Resolution titled, “MNLA Schedule for 2024/2025”, dated November 21, 2023
6. Draft Resolution on “Increasing Transparency and Promoting Accountability”
7. Draft Agenda for the December 13-14, 2023 MNC General Assembly

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

MNLA	Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
MN-S	Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council