



RULES of the HOUSE
of the
Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
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PREAMBLE

WHEREAS it is desirable for the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly to adopt rules and procedures to provide clear and consistent guidance in its deliberations, built on Métis customs and traditions of respect, order and decorum;

Therefore, the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, in accordance with the authority granted to it by the Métis Nation Saskatchewan through its Constitution to pass resolutions, hereby adopts the following rules and procedures to guide its sittings:

GENERAL

Procedure in unprovided cases

1 Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, current edition, shall govern the Assembly in all procedural matters not otherwise covered by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Constitution, The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Act, 1999, or these Rules.

Attendance

2 Members may attend a sitting of the Assembly in person, via virtual means, or by telephone.

Publication of proceedings and documents

3(1) The official record of the proceedings of the Assembly consists of the Minutes as approved by the Assembly.

(2) The official documents of the Assembly shall be printed and published only under the authority of the Clerk of the Assembly in accordance with The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Act, 1999.

SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ratification of appointment

4(1) There is no debate of the motion to ratify the appointment of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

(2) If a motion to ratify fails, the Assembly shall adjourn for the period of time necessary to prepare an alternate motion.

Participation in debate

5 The Speaker and Deputy Speaker shall not take part in any debate before the Assembly.



Speaker's ruling

6 A member who disagrees with a ruling by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker may appeal the ruling to the Assembly as follows:

1. once recognized by the Speaker, the Member shall move a motion stating, "shall the ruling of the Speaker (or Deputy Speaker) be upheld";
2. the motion requires a seconder;
3. there is no debate on the motion;
4. the Speaker shall put the motion to a vote.

SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Ordinary time

7 The ordinary times for the daily meeting and adjournment of the Assembly is from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., with a recess approximately midway through each of the morning and afternoon.

Procedure at time of daily adjournment

8 At the time of daily adjournment, except as otherwise specified in these Rules or ordered by the Assembly, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings on any business under consideration and adjourn the Assembly without question put, provided that all business pending on the Order of the Day at the termination of the sitting on that day is tabled until the next day to be taken up at the same stage where its progress was interrupted.

Procedure at time of adjournment on the last day of a sitting

9 At the time of adjournment on the last day of a sitting of the Assembly, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and adjourn the Assembly without question put, provided that all business pending on the Order of the Day at the termination of the sitting on that day is tabled until the next sitting of the Assembly.

Lack of quorum

10(1) If at any time during a sitting there is not a quorum of 75 Members as required by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Constitution, the Speaker may take the chair and adjourn the Assembly until a later time in that sitting or to the next sitting, as the case may require, and all business pending on the Order of the Day is tabled until the adjourned date and time.



(2) Whenever the Speaker adjourns the Assembly for lack of a quorum, the time of the adjournment and the names of the Members then present shall be recorded in the Minutes.

Recess or adjournment

11(1) A motion that the Assembly recess or be adjourned may be moved without notice by any Member when a question is not under debate, in accordance with the following process:

1. once recognized by the Speaker, the Member shall move a motion to recess or adjourn for a specified period of time;
2. the motion requires a seconder;
3. there is no debate on the motion;
4. the Speaker shall put the motion to a vote.

(2) If a motion to recess or adjourn is defeated, no second motion to the same effect may be made until after some intermediate proceeding has taken place.

(3) The Speaker shall make an announcement five minutes before the expiry of a recess or adjournment to summon Members back to the Assembly.

BUSINESS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Prayers

12 An Elder selected by the Provincial Métis Council shall open and close each meeting of the Assembly with a prayer.

Precedence of business

13 All items included in the Order of the Day prepared as required pursuant to The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Act, 1999 shall be taken up in the order in which they are included.

Withdrawal of items of business

14(1) A Member may withdraw an item of business on the Order of the Day that is in the Member's own name when it is called, provided the item of business has not already been moved and seconded.



(2) Items of business that have been moved and seconded may be withdrawn only by unanimous consent of the Assembly upon the request of the Member who moved the motion.

Items of business postponed

15 Whenever an item of business before the Assembly is interrupted pursuant to a Rule or Order, unless otherwise provided, the proceeding postponed is to be taken up at the same stage where its progress was interrupted.

ORDER AND DECORUM

Speaker to preserve order and decorum

16 The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum in the Assembly and, when deciding questions of order, shall state the Rule or authority applicable to the decision.

Recognition by Speaker

17 No Member may speak until he or she obtains the recognition of the Speaker, and all Members shall address their remarks to the Speaker and to the merits of the motion under discussion.

Participation by non-members

18 Staff or consultants may be requested to be available to the Assembly to respond to questions or provide factual information.

Rules for decorum

19 Members shall maintain the decorum of the Assembly by observing the following rules:

- (a) smoking is not permitted;
- (b) mobile and cellular telephones, laptops, tablets and handheld computers, including personal digital assistants, may be used while the Assembly is sitting, provided they are operated silently and not used as a telephone, recording device, camera, or pager;
- (c) when the Speaker is in the Chair, each Member who is present in person must be in the Member's designated seat in order to take part in the proceedings;
- (d) Members shall refrain from loud private conversations.

Inappropriate language and actions

20 When a motion is under discussion, no Member shall:



- (a) interrupt the Member speaking except to raise a point of order or call attention to the lack of a quorum;
- (b) reflect on the absence of another Member;
- (c) reflect on the conduct of the Speaker or other presiding officer;
- (d) use offensive, provocative or threatening language;
- (e) involve the Speaker, any presiding officer, or officer of the Assembly in the debate;
- (f) censure, attack, make personal references, or impute the motives of any officer or employee of the Assembly;
- (g) persist in irrelevance or tedious repetition, either of his or her own arguments or of the arguments used by other Members;
- (h) excessively read extracts from documents, books, publications, and correspondence;
- (i) quote anything that if stated directly would be contrary to the Rules and practices of the Assembly; or
- (j) involve persons other than Members in the debate.

Disorder

21(1) The Speaker may, after providing two warnings, suspend any Member who persistently disregards the Speaker's authority to preserve order and decorum for the remainder of the sitting day and, if the Member refuses to leave the Assembly, shall direct Dumont's Scouts to escort the Member from the Assembly.

(2) In the case of grave disorder, the Speaker may recess the Assembly, without question put, to a time to be determined by the Speaker.

Observers

22 While the Assembly is sitting, any person other than a Member admitted to any part of the Assembly or gallery who causes disorder or does not withdraw when so ordered by the Speaker shall be taken into custody by Dumont's Scouts and expelled from the sitting.



RULES OF DEBATE

Member may only speak twice

23 A Member may only speak twice to a motion, unless responding to a question from another Member.

Time limits

24 A Member may only speak for two minutes at any time.

Documents cited

25 A Member who quotes any document in debate is required to provide the document to the Clerk to be distributed to all Member, if requested by any Member.

Points of order

26(1) A Member addressing the Assembly, if called to order either by the Speaker or on a point raised by another Member, shall cease speaking while the point of order is being stated, after which the Member may explain.

(2) Before the Speaker makes a decision with respect to the point of order the Speaker may permit other Members to speak to it, but such interventions must be strictly relevant to the point of order taken.

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Requirements for motions

27 The following rules apply to motions:

- (a) every motion must be drafted in the form of a proposition such that, if adopted, it becomes either a resolution or Order of the Assembly;
- (b) a motion may not be moved if it raises substantially the same question as one that has already been decided in the same sitting.

Motions not included in Order of the Day

28 A motion that is not included in the Order of the Day may not be introduced to the Assembly unless a motion to consider that it be dealt with is moved and seconded and is supported by two-thirds of those voting.

Moving a motion

29(1) A member who wishes to move a motion shall state the motion so that it can be reduced to writing and displayed on the screen in the Assembly.



(2) When a motion is seconded, the Speaker shall read the motion to the Assembly and open the motion to debate.

Amendments to motions

30(1) An amendment may be moved to any debatable motion to omit or insert words in the motion except as otherwise prohibited by the Rules.

(2) An amendment to omit all words is not in order.

(3) An amendment to an amendment is not in order.

(4) A motion to amend a main motion requires a seconder, is debatable and requires the support of a simple majority to pass.

(5) If a motion to amend is accepted by the Assembly, the debate then resumes on the main motion as amended and the main motion must ultimately be voted on.

Friendly amendments

31 A proposed amendment to a motion that is acceptable to the mover and the seconder can be incorporated into the motion without a formal amendment by the Assembly, and the written version of the motion displayed on the screen in the Assembly shall be revised accordingly.

Speaker's list

32 The Speaker shall maintain a list of the names of Members who have indicated they wish to speak to a motion and the list of names shall be displayed on the screen in the Assembly in the order in which they will be recognized.

Calling the question

33(1) A request to call the question is in effect a motion to close debate and can only be made as follows:

1. the Member must be recognized by the Speaker and move a motion to close debate;
2. the motion requires a seconder;
3. there is no debate on the motion;
4. the Speaker shall put the motion to a vote.

(2) A motion to close debate requires the support of two-thirds of those voting to pass.

(3) If a motion to close debate is accepted by the Assembly, the Speaker shall then put the motion in relation to which debate is now closed to a vote.

(4) If a motion to close debate is defeated, the debate continues.

Motions out of order

34 When the Speaker is of the opinion that a motion offered is contrary to the Rules and Privileges of the Legislative Assembly and therefore out of order, the Speaker shall inform the Assembly immediately, before putting the question, and quote the authority applicable to the case.

Debatable motions

35(1) Except as otherwise specified in these Rules, the following motions are debatable:

- (a) motions contained in the Order of the Day;
- (b) for the concurrence in a report submitted to the Assembly;
- (c) for the appointment of a committee;
- (d) for reference of a report or other documents to a committee or other body ;
- (e) for the suspension of any of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly;
- (f) any other motion that may be required for the observance of the proprieties of the Assembly, the maintenance of its authority, the appointment or conduct of its officers, the management of its business, the arrangement of its proceedings, the correctness of its records, the fixing of its sitting days, or the times of its meeting.

Non-debatable motions

36 All motions other than those described in section 34 shall be decided without debate or amendment.



SUSPENSION OR AMENDMENT OF RULES

Motion to suspend or amend

37 These rules can be suspended or amended at any time as follows:
by a motion of the Assembly identifying the rule to be suspended or amended

1. once recognized by the Speaker, the Member shall move a motion to suspend or amend a rule or rules as identified;
2. the motion requires a seconder;
3. the motion is debatable;
4. once debate has concluded or the question has been called in accordance with section 33, the Speaker shall put the motion to a vote.