



**MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN  
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL MEETING**  
*held April 21, 2026*

Minutes of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting held April 21, 2026, at the Sheraton Cavalier, 612 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, prepared by Diane Parsons, Recording Secretary.

**PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL:** (*\* indicates virtual attendance*)

**Present:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Michelle LeClair, Vice President*         | Rachael Heiser, Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC)  |
| Marlene Hansen, Secretary                 | Billy Kennedy, Western Region 1A (joined at 2:45 p.m.) |
| Jeremy Denomie, Treasurer                 | Loretta King, Western Region 1                         |
| Laura Burnouf, Northern Region 1          | Darlene Langan, Les Filles de Madelaine (Interim)*     |
| Ryan Carriere, Eastern Region 1*          | Darcy Lepowick, Eastern Region 2A                      |
| Marilyn Ekert, Eastern Region 2 (Interim) | Brennan Merasty, Northern Region 3                     |
| Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3            | Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2                   |
| Beverly Fullerton, Western Region 2A      | (joined at 2:45 p.m.)                                  |

**Absent:**

|                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Glen McCallum, President        | Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2 |
| Wendy Gervais, Western Region 3 |                                   |

**ALSO PRESENT:**

|                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| John Lagimodiere, Chair  | Merilee Rasmussen, Rasmussen & Co.* |
| Elder Norman Fleury      | Diane Parsons, Recording Secretary  |
| Elder Caroline Laliberte |                                     |

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

Dorothy Myo, Deputy Chief, Self-Government  
Kendra Gill, Director of Policy and Research  
Autumn Laing-LaRose, Director, Strategy and Inclusive Governance  
Billie Jo Natomagan, Director, Planning and Priorities  
Heather Hallgrimson, Cabinet and Legislative Services Manager - Policy and Self-Determination  
Gerald Morin, Governance Specialist  
Courtney Usselman, Legislative Services Officer

**AGENDA VARIED**

The order of the agenda varied during the meeting. Items are presented in these minutes in the order in which they were considered.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

John Lagimodiere, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**2. OPENING PRAYERS**

Elder Caroline Laliberte and Elder Norman Fleury provided Opening Prayers.

**3. ROLL CALL**

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

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Related information: Draft Agenda for the April 21, 2026, MN-S PMC Meeting*

**It was MOVED (Michelle LeClair) and SECONDED (Darcy Lepowick)**

That the Agenda for the April 21, 2026, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting be approved as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayers - Lii Vyeu Moond (the Old Ones)
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Opening Remarks - President Glen McCallum
6. Consent Agenda Items:
  - 6.1 Appointing the Recording Secretary – Diane Parsons
  - 6.2 Review/Approval of the March 27, 2026, PMC Minutes
7. Distinctions Based Focus Plan Presentation:
  - 7.1 Brennan Merasty, Minister of Self-Government and Self-Determination
  - 7.2 Dorothy Myo, Deputy Chief, Self-Government
  - 7.3 Billie Jo Natomagan, Director, Planning and Priorities
8. Resolutions:
  - 8.1 Distinctions Based Focus Plan
  - 8.2 Gabriel Dumont Institute - Appointments for Eastern Region 2A
  - 8.3 Elders for Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
9. Finance Update
10. In-Camera
11. Closing Prayer - Lii Vyeu Moond (the Old Ones).

**DEFEATED**

**IN-CAMERA**

**It was MOVED (Jeremy Denomie) and SECONDED (Rachael Heiser)**

That the April 21, 2026, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting now adjourn and proceed in-camera.

**CARRIED (260421-01)**

Time: 9:18 a.m.

**MEETING RECONVENED**

The meeting reconvened on April 21, 2026, at 2:45 p.m. Billy Kennedy and Leonard Montgrand were present when the meeting resumed.

## **Roll Call**

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

### **4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (Continued)**

*Related information: Draft Agenda for the April 21, 2026, MN-S PMC Meeting*

A revised version of the agenda was presented for consideration, including a revision to defer the item, “Finance Update,” to a future PMC meeting.

#### **It was MOVED (Brennan Merasty) and SECONDED (Beverly Fullerton)**

That the Agenda for the April 21, 2026, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting be approved as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayers - Lii Vyeu Moond (the Old Ones)
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Opening Remarks - President Glen McCallum
6. Consent Agenda Items:
  - 6.1 Appointing the Recording Secretary – Diane Parsons
  - 6.2 Review/Approval of the March 27, 2026, PMC Minutes
7. Distinctions Based Focus Plan Presentation
8. Resolutions:
  - 8.1 Distinctions Based Focus Plan
  - 8.2 Gabriel Dumont Institute - Appointments for Eastern Region 2A
  - 8.3 Elders for Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
9. In-Camera
10. Closing Prayer - Lii Vyeu Moond (the Old Ones).

**CARRIED (260421-02)**

### **5. OPENING REMARKS**

Due to President McCallum’s absence, “Opening Remarks” were not provided.

### **6. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

*Related information: Draft Minutes of the March 27, 2026, MN-S PMC Meeting*

The draft minutes of the March 27, 2026, MN-S PMC Meeting were amended as follows:

- First bullet of the first paragraph of “Item 7.2, Order of the Day for the May 22-24, 2026, Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Order of the Day” was amended to replace the word “Newly” with “All” to read: “Oaths of Office for All Elected Local Presidents”
- Fourth bullet of the final paragraph of “Item 8.1, Q3 Variance Analysis” was amended to include the words, “apply independently or” to now read: “Encourage the PMYC to apply independently or partner with Regions and Locals on grant applications”.

**It was MOVED (Michelle LeClair) and SECONDED (Marg Friesen)**

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) approve the following items included on the Consent Agenda:

- Appointment of Diane Parsons as Recording Secretary for the April 21, 2026 PMC Meeting
- The Minutes of the March 27, 2026, MN-S PMC Meeting, as amended.

**CARRIED (260421-03)**

**7. DISTINCTION BASED FOCUS PLAN PRESENTATION**

*Related information (provided with the agenda): Presentation titled, “Métis Nation – Saskatchewan: A Distinct Plan for the Departments of the MN-S (Distinctions Based Focus Plan 2025-2029)”*

Brennan Merasty introduced the proposed Distinctions Based Focus Plan, emphasizing governance approaches grounded in Métis identity, traditions, and lived practices.

Billie Jo Natomagan, Director, Planning and Priorities, outlined the engagement process undertaken to gather input for the proposed plan, and commented on strengthening the plan’s language to emphasize intergovernmental collaboration and the importance of citizen-focused communication in monitoring progress.

**8. RESOLUTIONS**

**8.1 Distinctions Based Focus Plan**

*Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Resolution on “Distinctions Based Focus Plan”*

**It was MOVED (Brennan Merasty) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)**

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) recognizes the distinctiveness of Métis identity, culture, values, and language - inclusive of Knowledge Keepers, Kihtêyak, Lii Vyeu Moond (the Old Ones or Elders), Youth, Women, and distinctive resources – which are incorporated into the proposals and decisions of the Provincial Métis Council (PMC);

**WHEREAS** the MN-S, as the government representing the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan, continues to uphold Métis distinction - identity, culture, values, and language - through its governance and institutions;

**WHEREAS** in 2021, a previous PMC administration undertook initial strategic planning, including the development of a MN-S Vision, Guiding Principles and Values, and Key Priorities, which were approved by the PMC on September 21, 2023 (PMC Resolution #230921-06);

**WHEREAS** the PMC, at its duly held meeting on June 25, 2025 formally affirmed and recognized Métis distinction, and called upon the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) for ratification (PMC Resolution #250625-04);

**WHEREAS** building on this foundational strategic work and the formal recognition of Métis distinction, the MN-S undertook the development of a Distinctions Based Focus Plan (the “Plan”) to guide the next phase of government planning and decision making;

**WHEREAS** the purpose of the Plan is to chart a Métis-distinct path forward for MN-S government, grounded in the priorities of Elders, MN-S Citizens, and the PMC;

**WHEREAS** the Plan reflects the views and priorities of Métis people and integrates their needs into the government's plans and priorities for the next four years, serving as a guiding document for the MN-S government, ministries, institutions, and departments, grounded in Métis core values and guiding principles;

**WHEREAS** in 2025, the development of the Plan was informed by direct citizen engagement, including in-person surveys conducted at Back to Batoche and an online citizen survey administered throughout the summer;

**WHEREAS** during the summer of 2025, one-on-one interviews were conducted with PMC members to identify leadership priorities for the Plan;

**WHEREAS** on September 4, 2025, prior to the MNLA, an Elders gathering session was held to identify Elders' priorities and perspectives to inform the Plan;

**WHEREAS** on September 7, 2025, the MNLA formally recognized and reaffirmed Métis distinction, being identity, culture, values, and language, as foundational to the existence and governance of MN-S (MNLA Resolution #250907-03);

**WHEREAS** between September 23 and 25, 2025, the PMC participated in a three-day planning session during which mission and vision statements were workshopped, core values and guiding principles were identified, and five focus areas were confirmed;

**WHEREAS** between October 2025 and January 2026, a preliminary draft of the Plan was developed based on the findings of these engagement activities;

**WHEREAS** on January 20, 2026, the draft Plan was presented to the PMC for initial review; and

**WHEREAS** between February 2 and 23, 2026, focused outreach was undertaken with the Local Presidents of Western Region 2 and Western Region 3 to support validation of the Plan's findings within those Regions, and updates were incorporated to reflect their input;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the PMC endorses and approves the Plan as a guiding document for the MN-S government for the remainder of the current term; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the PMC directs that the Plan be shared widely across MN-S to support collective understanding and alignment, and that the Plan be tabled for information with the MNLA at its next sitting.

**CARRIED (260421-04)**

Secretary Hansen voted in opposition

***Request for Action (RFA-260421-01)***

*It was requested that a "Minister's Message" be included alongside the President's and CEO's Messages in the "Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Distinctions Based Focus Plan 2025-2029: A Distinct Plan for the Departments of the MN-S".*

**8.2 Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Board Appointments**

*Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Resolution on "Gabriel Dumont Institute Board Appointments for Eastern Region 2A" and Julien Brazeau's Biography*

Darcy Lepowick provided an overview of the qualifications and background of GDI Board candidate, Julien Brazeau.

**It was MOVED (Darcy Lepowick) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)**

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) recognizes the distinctiveness of Métis identity, culture, values, and language - inclusive of Knowledge Keepers, Kihtêyak, Lii Vyeu Moond (the Old Ones or Elders), Youth, Women, and distinctive resources – which are incorporated into the proposals and decisions of the Provincial Métis Council (PMC);

**WHEREAS** Article 5.3 of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* states “The Regional Council shall have the responsibility of making all appointments to the Institutions and Affiliates at the Regional and Provincial levels”; and

**WHEREAS** Eastern Region 2A, at its duly held meeting on March 9, 2026, recommended that Julien Brazeau be appointed to the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Board of Governors as the Eastern Region 2A representative;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the PMC ratifies the appointment of Julien Brazeau to the GDI Board of Governors as the Eastern Region 2A representative for a three-year term commencing April 21, 2026.

**CARRIED (260421-05)**

Les Filles de Madelaine President Langan voted in opposition

**8.3 Elders for Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA)**

*Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Resolution on “Elders for the May 22-24, 2026, Métis Nation Legislative Assembly”*

Laura Burnouf summarized a proposal for selecting Elders to be seated on the assembly floor and participate in the upcoming Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA). During discussion, comments were offered on:

- The option for Regions to include additional Elders, with seating provided in the gallery and travel covered through regional budgets, and potentially incorporating the process into future MNLAs based on feedback
- Proposed friendly amendments to increase the number of Elders selected by the PMC Executive to four (4) and to allow the PMYC and LFDM to each select one (1) Elder.

**It was MOVED (Laura Burnouf) and SECONDED (Darcy Lepowick)**

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) recognizes the distinctiveness of Métis identity, culture, values, and language - inclusive of Knowledge Keepers, Kihtêyak, Lii Vyeu Moond (the Old Ones or Elders), Youth, Women, and distinctive resources – which are incorporated into the proposals and decisions of the Provincial Métis Council (PMC);

**WHEREAS** MN-S is committed to supporting Knowledge Carriers, Lii Vyeu Moond, Lii Vyeu, Kihtêyak, Kêhtêyak, and Aṭnêdhê (the Old Ones or Elders), who play a prominent, vital, and respected role by carrying teachings and lived experiences that guide the MN-S;

**WHEREAS** the role and selection of Old Ones or Elders within MN-S governance continues to evolve;

**WHEREAS** there is an established practice and expectation that Old Ones or Elders be present at the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA), and clarity is required regarding their representation and participation;

**WHEREAS** the PMC has directed that MN-S draft a plan outlining the resources required and a proposed approach to developing a comprehensive Wetacihowin policy, and this plan is under development; and

**WHEREAS** MN-S seeks to support regional equity and the respectful inclusion of Old Ones or Elders at the MNLA while the Wetacihowin policy is under development;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the PMC directs that, for the purposes of the MNLA scheduled May 22–24, 2026, up to eighteen (18) Old Ones or Elders be seated on the Legislative Assembly floor in front of MNLA members (the “MNLA Old Ones or Elders”) to provide representation and guidance to the MNLA as a whole, including one (1) representative from each of the twelve (12) Regions, one (1) Old One or Elder representing the Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC), one (1) Old One or Elder representing Les Filles de Madelaine (LFDM), and four (4) Old Ones or Elders representing the Province of Saskatchewan (the “Province”);

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the twelve (12) Regional MNLA Old Ones or Elders shall be selected by their respective MN-S Regions, the Old One or Elder representing the PMYC shall be selected by the PMYC, the Old One or Elder representing LFDM shall be selected by the LFDM, and the four (4) Old Ones or Elders representing the Province shall be selected by the MN-S Executive;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** to ensure effective planning and coordination, the PMC directs that the names of all 18 MNLA Old Ones or Elders must be received by May 1, 2026; and

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED THAT** PMC members may identify additional Old Ones or Elders from their Regions to attend the MNLA, who will be seated in the MNLA gallery, and the expenses for those Old Ones or Elders will be covered by Regional budgets, as directed by the applicable Regional Representative.

**CARRIED (260421-06)**

## CONCLUSION

**It was MOVED (Rachael Heiser) and SECONDED (Loretta King)**

That the April 21, 2026, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting now conclude and proceed in-camera.

**CARRIED (260421-07)**

Time: 4:15 p.m.

\* \* \*

## LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

*The following items were referenced or presented for consideration at the meeting:*

1. Draft Agenda for the April 21, 2026, MN-S PMC Meeting
2. Draft Minutes of the March 27, 2026, MN-S PMC Meeting
3. Resolution titled, “Distinctions Based Focus Plan”
4. Resolution titled, “GDI Board Appointment for ER2A”
5. Resolution titled, “Elders for the May 22-24, 2026, MNLA”
6. Biography titled “Julien Brazeau Bio”