MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 16, FEBRUARY 5 and 6, 2016

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting held January 16, 2016 in the Salon Batoche, Delta Bessborough Hotel, 601 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and February 5 and 6, 2016 in the South Oak Room at the Quality Inn, 67 13th Street East, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

DATE: Saturday, January 16, 2016

PRESENT:
Robert Doucette, President (arrived at 9:50 a.m.) (departed at 10:04 a.m.)
Gerald Morin, Vice-President and Co-Chair
Helene Johnson, Co-Chair
Lela Arnold
Michael Bell
Earl Cook
May Henderson (arrived at 9:50 a.m.) (departed at 10:04 a.m.)
Chester Herman
Penny Hurton (arrived at 9:50 a.m.) (departed at 10:15 a.m.)
Billy Kennedy
Derek Langan
Glen McCallum
Darlene McKay
Tammy Mah
Lennard Morin

ALSO PRESENT:
Ian Ketcheson, Director, Métis and Non-Status Indian Relations, INAC
Karen Larocque, Eastern Region 3 (Observer)
Richard Quintal, Negotiator and Manager of Métis Relations, INAC

RECORDING SECRETARY
Carol Lee, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

Vice-President Gerald Morin called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Glen McCallum offered an Opening Prayer.

Vice-President Morin reported the passing of Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Member Bev Worsley, and called for a moment of silence in her memory. The deaths of Ernest Sylvester and the wife of Wayne Mackenzie were also acknowledged.

Members Arrived
MN-S President Robert Doucette, May Henderson and Penny Hurton joined the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Change of Chair
President Doucette assumed the Chair.

2. OPENING COMMENTS

President Doucette reported that meetings have been held with Vice-President Morin and Richard Quintal and Charles Marcoux, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). There is agreement regarding the need to:

- Save the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S)
- Hold a Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) at the earliest possible date
- Hold an early election.

President Doucette commented on the disagreement relative to control of the organization being assumed by individuals other than the President.

President Doucette advised that he would not be standing for re-election and would be departing the meeting. He wished the PMC success in its deliberations and efforts to save the MN-S.

It was requested that consideration be given on how to proceed towards paying MN-S office costs and insurance (i.e. rent, etc.)

Members Departed
President Doucette and Ms. Henderson departed the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Change of Chair
Vice-President Morin assumed the Chair.

3. ROLL CALL

Vice-President Morin conducted a Roll Call and acknowledged a total of 13 members present. He confirmed that quorum was established.

2. OPENING COMMENTS (Continued)

Discussion ensued regarding President Doucette's comments:

- It was noted that the Area Directors represent their regions and their Métis locals
- The MN-S Constitution requires that the PMC meetings be held every two months
- Vice-President Morin has called in-person PMC meetings on those occasions where President Doucette has failed to do so.

Ms. Hurton reported that she does not check her emails for notices of PMC meetings and requested that future notices of meetings be provided by telephone.

Member Departed
Ms. Hurton departed the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

4. RECORDING SECRETARY

It was MOVED (Earl Cook) and SECONDED (Glen McCallum)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Carol Lee, Raincoast Ventures Ltd., as the Recording Secretary for the January 16, 2016 meeting.

CARRIED

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

It was MOVED (Derek Langan) and SECONDED (Lela Arnold)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council adopts the following Agenda for its January 16, 2016 meeting:

- Approval of Previous Minutes
- Funding Proposal from INAC
- MN-S Audit
- Citizenship Registry
- Committees
- Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
- MN-S Election
- Other Business:
  - 2016 Batoche Festival
  - Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Representative Appointments
  - EB Campbell Dam.

CARRIED

6. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – JUNE 5 AND 8, 2015

Draft Minutes of the June 5 and 8, 2015 meeting of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council was distributed at the meeting.

It was MOVED (Glen McCallum) and SECONDED (Lela Arnold)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council adopts the minutes of its June 5 and 8, 2015 meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

Appointment of Co-Chairs

It was MOVED (Darlene McKay) and SECONDED (Lela Arnold)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Helene Johnson and Gerald Morin as Co-Chairs for the meeting.

CARRIED

7. FUNDING PROPOSAL FROM INAC

Document titled "Proposed Approach Terms of Reference" was distributed at the meeting.

The following INAC representatives joined the meeting:

- Ian Ketcheson, Director, Métis and Non-Status Indian Relations
- Charles Marcoux, Regional Consultation Coordinator
- Richard Quintal, Negotiator and Manager of Métis Relations.

Mr. Ketcheson commented on the newly elected federal government's focus on improving relationships with Indigenous peoples, reconciliation and nation-to-nation discussions. INAC is interested in assisting MN-S to move forward and to resolve some long-standing issues. To this end, INAC has had some initial discussions with President Doucette and Vice-President Morin to determine if there is a path toward achieving the goals of holding a MNLA and an election.

Mr. Ketcheson advised that Minister Carolyn Bennett has approved the implementation of a strategy, as documented in the Proposed Approach Terms of Reference (Proposed Approach) and the associated funding. Mr. Ketcheson reviewed the objectives of the strategy.

Mr. Quintal reviewed the key elements of the strategy and highlighted:

- All funding provided by INAC would be handled by a neutral third-party manager (expert advisor)
- The funding of up to $50,000 for three PMC meetings, exclusive of the January 16, 2016 meeting
- The appointment of a neutral third-party facilitator is optional
- The requirement to safeguard the information contained in the MN-S Citizenship Registry through securing the MN-S office building
- The strategy is intended to ensure the survival of the MN-S by providing funding until the end of the 2015/16 fiscal year.

Messrs. Ketcheson and Quintal responded to questions and comments from the PMC regarding:

- The wording in the second bullet of Item 2 of the Key Elements section of the Proposed Approach does not appear to respect the MN-S Constitution and the role of MN-S as the government of the Métis in Saskatchewan
- The suggestion to replace the word "interlocutor" in the first bullet of the Objectives section of the Proposed Approach
- Acknowledgement that there are different points of view amongst the PMC members that would benefit from the assistance of a facilitator
- Confirmation that the funding provided under the strategy would expire at the end of the 2015/16 fiscal year on March 31, 2016
- The opinion of the PMC that it should not be required to accept the responsibility for debts and Contribution Agreements approved by individuals who claimed to represent the PMC when the PMC was not involved in the process
- The need for MN-S meetings to be inclusive
- The recommendation that future PMC decisions be accompanied by and documented through resolutions
- Confirmation that the $50,000 funding is inclusive of support to be provided to PMC committee meetings

- The funding does not provide for salaries to be paid however PMC members will be paid per diems fees and reimbursed for travel expenses incurred to attend the three PMC meetings
- Whether the strategy would fulfill the requirement of demonstrating accountability, professionalism and transparency established by former Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Minister Valcourt to enable the reinstatement of federal funding to the MN-S
- The critical role to be played by the Finance Committee in demonstrating accountability, professionalism and transparency
- The need for funding to be provided to pay salaries to individuals to perform the work required
- The timing for the appointment of the expert advisor and the need to allow sufficient time to brief the expert advisor prior to the MNLA being held
- The process that would be utilized to appoint the expert advisor
- Confirmation that INAC would be willing to consider funding beyond the current fiscal year if the PMC can demonstrate that there is progress being made toward the resolution of issues.

Messrs. Ketchison, Marcoux and Quintal departed the meeting.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 11:51 a.m. and reconvened at 12:39 p.m.

Discussion ensued on:

- The need for the strategy to require that all PMC Members work together to re-establish the MN-S
- The willingness to work with all PMC members who are willing to engage
- The need to clarify the role of the interlocutor referenced in the first bullet of the Objectives section of the Proposed Approach
- The need to delete the requirement for unanimity of decisions referenced in the second bullet in the second item of the Key Elements section of the Proposed Approach
- The need for the expert advisor to work under the direction of the Finance Committee and the MNLA Committee
- Whether the $25,000 funding for the third-party neutral facilitator could be allocated to the work of the MN-S Committees
- Whether the PMC would have the authority to select the expert advisor.

Messrs. Ketchison and Quintal rejoined the meeting.

Messrs. Ketcheson and Quintal responded to questions and comments:

- INAC is cognizant that there is a concern that the requirement for unanimity of decisions cannot be achieved if some members of the PMC are unwilling to attend PMC meetings
- INAC would be willing to share the list of proposed expert advisors for the PMC to discuss an acceptable party to be appointed
- It would be reasonable for the Finance Committee to obtain access to the office building, in the presence of the expert advisor, to inspect financial records
- Agreement to the following amendments to the Proposed Approach document:
    - Objectives, Bullet 1 – Amend wording to "To re-establish a strong, reliable and legitimate representative of the Métis of Saskatchewan and to allow them to participate in and inform long-term policy development"

  - Key Elements, Item 2, Bullet 2 – Amend wording to "Provincial Métis Council resolutions that are passed and documented at a properly constituted meeting of the Provincial Métis Council will be required as part of this process."
- The need to keep in mind that the strategy is intended to ensure the survival of the MN-S until the calling of an MNLA
- Confirmation that INAC's funding of a forensic audit will be dependent upon the results of the work of the expert advisor.

It was MOVED (Earl Cook) and SECONDED (Glen McCallum)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council accepts the strategy documented in the Proposed Approach Terms of Reference and the associated funding, with the assurances provided by the representatives of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada during the discussion, and with the following amendments to the Proposed Approach Terms of Reference:

A. Replace the first bullet of the Objectives section with "To re-establish a strong, reliable and legitimate representative of the Métis of Saskatchewan and to allow them to participate in and inform long-term policy development"
B. Replace the second bullet of the item titled "Funding of up to three Provincial Métis Council meetings" of the Key Elements section with "Provincial Métis Council resolutions that are passed and documented at a properly constituted meeting of the Provincial Métis Council will be required as part of this process."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess
The meeting recessed at 1:49 p.m. and reconvened at 2:10 p.m.

8. MN-S AUDIT

Vice-President Morin referenced the resolution regarding the forensic audit passed at the June 5, 2015 meeting and noted that the provision of federal funding for forensic audits is restricted to parties holding federal funding agreements, specifically the MN-S and Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc.

Discussion ensued on:

- The lack of progress on a forensic audit
- The party that would undertake and fund the forensic audit of MN-S affiliate organizations
- Advice received that the cost to the MN-S to have a forensic audit of MN-S affiliate organizations undertaken would be a minimum of $70,000
- The possibility that information uncovered as a result of the work of the Finance Committee with the expert advisor under the approved funding arrangement with INAC may lead to the RCMP initiating a criminal investigation
- The need for the prompt appointment of the expert advisor to allow the work to commence as soon as possible.

It was MOVED (Earl Cook) and SECONDED (Tammy Mah)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council directs the Finance Committee to ensure that the resolution regarding a forensic audit, passed at the June 5, 2015 Provincial

Métis Council meeting, be implemented as part of the work of the expert advisor under the INAC funding proposal.

CARRIED

9. CITIZENSHIP REGISTRY

Co-Chair Helene Johnson referenced the resolution regarding the creation of a Registry Committee passed at the June 5, 2015 meeting. This work has been deferred pending the resolution of the custody of the MN-S Citizenship Registry documents.

10. COMMITTEES

This item was discussed under Item 7.

11. MÉTIS NATION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Vice-President Morin suggested that the MN-S would be subject to the Master Agreement upon the completion of the process being undertaken under the approved funding arrangement. INAC is currently assessing how it would suspend the requirements of the Master Agreement while the approved funding arrangement is in place.

Discussion ensued on the need to provide reports on the terms of the Master Agreement and the work of the Finance Committee at the MNLA.

12. MN-S ELECTION

Vice-President Morin advised that the federal government has committed to conducting a MN-S election, modelled upon the 2007 election process. The following mechanisms will be incorporated to ensure the election is seen as fair and independent process where Métis citizens are able to exercise their democratic right to vote:

- Based on the provisions of the *Métis Elections Act*
- Utilization of declaration forms at the polling stations
- Ensure that there is a ballot box in every local.

13. OTHER BUSINSS

13.1 2016 Batoche Festival

It was MOVED (Tammy Mah) and SECONDED (Chester Herman)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Darlene McKay as the Chair of the Back to Batoche Festival Committee for 2016 and that Vice-President Gerald Morin be authorized to correspond, in writing, to all government levels and Métis Nation – Saskatchewan affiliates requesting funding.

CARRIED

It was MOVED (Tammy Mah) and SECONDED (Lennard Morin)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Darlene McKay as the Chair of the Back to Batoche Land Management Committee.

CARRIED

13.2 Gabriel Dumont Institute Representative Appointments

It was MOVED (Tammy Mah) and SECONDED (Helene Johnson)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Andy McKay as the Cumberland House representative to the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Directors.

CARRIED

It was MOVED (Tammy Mah) and SECONDED (Glen McCallum)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council ratifies the appointment of Dennis Langan to the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Directors.

CARRIED

It was MOVED (Helene Johnson) and SECONDED (Tammy Mah)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council reappoints Glenn Lafleur to the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Directors.

CARRIED

13.3 EB Campbell Dam

Lennard Morin advised that license of the EB Campbell Dam expired on December 31, 2015 and the duty to consult has been triggered. The proponent has refused the request to provide funding of $10,000 to support the community's involvement in the consultation.

Mr. Morin requested assistance to provide a presentation to the residents of Cumberland House regarding the duty to consult and accommodate.

13.4 MN-S Signatory

It was MOVED (Darlene McKay) and SECONDED (Lela Arnold)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC) requests Vice-President Gerald Morin to sign letters and other documents on behalf of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, in the absence of the President; and further, authorizes Vice-President Morin to sign letters and other documents as approved by the PMC, in the event that the President declines to sign.

CARRIED

13.5 Payment of Legal Costs

It was MOVED (Glen McCallum) and SECONDED (Darlene McKay)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council confirms its intention to pay for legal services provided to the Provincial Métis Council by Jay Watson, as soon as it is able to do so.

CARRIED

13.6 Reponses to the Media

It was requested that Vice-President Morin respond to media requests for information on the funding arrangement entered into with INAC.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council was scheduled for February 5 and 6, 2016 in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

15. MEETING RECESSED

Vice-President Morin commented that he has been advised to recess, rather than close, the meeting upon the conclusion of business.

It was MOVED (Glen McCallum)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting be recessed until the February 5 and 6, 2016 meeting in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

CARRIED

(Time: 3:15 p.m.)