MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 31, 2016

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting held March 31, 2016 in the Dundarave Room at the Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Hotel, 1128 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, British Columbia.

PRESENT:
Gerald Morin, Vice-President, Co-Chair
Helene Johnson, Co-Chair
Lela Arnold
Earl Cook
Chester Herman
Billy Kennedy
Derek Langan (via teleconference)
Tammy Mah
Glen McCallum
Darlene McKay
Lennard Morin

GUEST:
Karen Larocque

ERNST & YOUNG REPRESENTATIVES:
Joe Healey, Ernst & Young (via teleconference)

INAC REPRESENTATIVES:
Charles Marcoux, Regional Consultation Coordinator, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) (Saskatchewan) (via teleconference)
Richard Quintal, Negotiator and Manager of Métis Relations, INAC
Erin Reid, Manager, INAC

RECORDING SECRETARY:
Carrie Peacock, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m.

WELCOMING COMMENTS AND OPENING PRAYER
Vice President Morin welcomed attendees to the meeting, and participants joining via teleconference. Glen McCallum offered an Opening Prayer.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM
Vice President Morin confirmed that a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was MOVED (Lennard Morin) and SECONDED (Billy Kennedy)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) approves the following Agenda for its March 31, 2016 meeting:

1. Appointment of Recording Secretary
2. Appointment of Co-Chairs
3. Royal Bank of Canada Letters
4. New Funding Agreement
5. Back to Batoche 2016
6. MN-S Representation (Legal Counsel and CEO)
7. MN-S Library Offers.

CARRIED

1. APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY

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

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Carrie Peacock, Raincoast Ventures Ltd., as Recording Secretary for the March 31, 2016 meeting.

CARRIED

2. APPOINTMENT OF CO-CHAIRS

It was MOVED (Chester Herman) and SECONDED (Billy Kennedy)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoint Helene Johnson and Gerald Morin as Co-Chairs for the March 31, 2016 meeting.

CARRIED

3. ROYAL BANK OF CANADA (RBC) LETTERS

Co-Chair Johnson acknowledged the previously circulated March 29, 2016 formal demand letters from Jim Kroczynski, Duchin, Bayda & Kroczynski, sent to the MN-S on behalf of the RBC, demanding payment of outstanding sums (see attached "List of Information Items").

Joe Healey, Ernst & Young (EY), confirmed that the letters from RBC's Legal Counsel were forwarded to Jay Watson, MN-S' Legal Counsel, and further advised that:

- The MN-S had 10 business days (by April 7, 2016) to respond to the letters
- Mr. Watson communicated with RBC's Legal Counsel regarding the demand letters, and the feasibility of the MN-S and RBC working towards a forbearance agreement
- RBC's Legal Counsel was informed that the MN-S had scheduled a Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) and an election
- The RBC may or may not proceed with formal enforcement of its demands.

Request for Action

Joe Healey, Ernst & Young, agreed to ask Jay Watson, MN-S' Legal Counsel, for his suggestions on how to proceed based on the March 29, 2016 demand letters from the RBC's Legal Counsel.

Request for Action

It was agreed that the Finance Committee and Ernst & Young representatives meet prior to the April 16-17, 2016 MN-S PMC meeting to consider the March 29, 2016 demand letters from RBC's Legal Counsel, and how to proceed.

4. NEW FUNDING AGREEMENT

4.1 Details of a New Funding Agreement

Richard Quintal, Negotiator and Manager of Métis Relations, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), confirmed that the PMC's achievements had been conveyed to Minister Bennett, including setting a date for the 2016 MNLA in Yorkton and calling an election.

He referenced two packages, compiled for the Minister's consideration:

- The first package submitted to the Minister, requested maintaining EY as the MN-S' Expert Advisor with funding for three months (including funding for the PMC to meet), and further requested that EY be retained while the funding agreement was being finalized
- The second package to be submitted to the Minister, would propose next steps based the PMC's progress, which were supported by the PMC's meeting notes and decisions.

In response to questions raised, Mr. Quintal acknowledged that:

- EY was initially retained as the MN-S Expert Advisor to work on behalf of the MN-S, and had been intently focussed on determining and reporting back on the MN-S' financial situation
- Efforts would be made to indicate required activities in the new agreement with EY, and to ensure that funds were identified to achieve them
- The new agreement with EY could include funding to accommodate five PMC meetings, in the months ahead; additionally, the MNLA and Finance Committees would need to meet.

4.2 Initial Funding Agreement with EY – Conclusion Date

The meeting acknowledged that the current agreement between the MN-S and EY indicated a conclusion date of March 31, 2016.

Request for Action

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) agreed that:

- *Ernst & Young (EY) remain the MN-S' Expert Advisor beyond March 31, 2016, while efforts proceeded towards finalizing a new agreement between the MN-S and EY*
- *Budget amounts and activities in the new agreement will be reviewed by the MN-S and EY*
- *A letter signed by the MN-S President or Vice President, will suffice to confirm that the initial engagement letter between MN-S and EY remains in force beyond its March 31, 2016 conclusion date, pending completion of a new agreement.*

4.3 2016 MNLA and Election

The meeting discussed preparations required for the upcoming MNLA and election, and offered the following comments:

- Efforts will be made, to ensure the MNLA is accessible to citizens outside of Yorkton
- As the election is 30 days after the MNLA, preparations need to be considered soon
- The model developed for the 2007 Election Process will be improved for the 2016 Election Process (i.e. ballot boxes will be provided at the appropriate pre-determined locations).

5. BACK TO BATOCHE 2016

5.1 EY's Administration of Back to Batoche Funds

Darlene McKay, Chair, Back to Batoche Committee, recalled the PMC's decision that sponsorship funds received for Back to Batoche 2016 would flow through EY. She expressed concerns that EY was unable to accommodate this process, as it was not a specified activity in their agreement. Arrangements must be made promptly, so contributions from sponsors could be received.

Mr. Healey suggested that EY could establish a trust fund account dedicated to Back to Batoche 2016. Administration costs could be incorporated into the MN-S' agreement with EY.

Request for Action

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) requested that Ernst & Young (EY) administer the receipt and disbursement of funds related to Back to Batoche 2016, through a dedicated trust account managed by EY.

5.2 Access to Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) Funding

Darlene McKay, Chair, Back to Batoche Committee, explained her understanding that $100,000 was accessible each year through the Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) for upgrades required on the Batoche grounds. She expressed concerns that after submitting a list of upgrades and renovations required, the CCDF denied the request for funding.

It was MOVED (Earl Cook) and SECONDED (Chester Herman)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council direct Darlene McKay, Chair of the Back to Batoche Committee, to send a letter to the CEO of the Clarence Campeau Development Fund, copied to the appropriate representative at Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, requesting $300,000 to upgrade the Batoche grounds ($100,000 for 2016 and $200,000 for prior years), along with an explanation of the tasks to be completed with the funds requested.

CARRIED

Charles Marcoux, INAC, was commended for continuing to investigate whether the Batoche grounds could be designated as a cultural site.

Request for Action

It was requested that a representative from the Clarence Campeau Development Fund be invited to attend the April 16-17, 2016 MN-S PMC meeting in Regina, Saskatchewan.

6. MN-S REPRESENTATION (LEGAL COUNSEL AND CEO)

The meeting discussed retaining Legal Counsel and a CEO to assist the PMC, the Finance Committee and the MNLA Committee in achieving their objectives, and further suggested that:

- Retaining an CEO could be considered after the agreement with EY concludes, when the organization is advancing forward
- The CEO previously appointed by the PMC, could be asked to resign from any potentially conflicting positions or appointments, if she accepted a paid position as the MN-S CEO

- Funding options for retaining Legal Counsel could be further considered (i.e. as an administrative cost through the agreement with EY, or with proceeds from the sale of assets).

7. MN-S LIBRARY OFFERS

Mr. Quintal confirmed that, as requested by the PMC, he had discussed the potential sale of the MN-S' historic library with officials and the Presidents of the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF). Both organizations offered to purchase the library.

During discussion on the opportunities presented, members acknowledged the MMF's offer (contingent on Canada's approval through the 2016/17 project process) to move the library to the Métis Genealogical Institute – Centre of Excellence, where the collection would be safeguarded for the Métis Nation. The library would remain available to the MN-S and others, through a lending program to be collaboratively designed with the Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Louis Riel Institute, and in consultation with other appropriate experts.

During discussion, the following comments were offered:

- Selling the library could help address the organization's immediate financial situation, and safeguard the assets
- Proceeds from the sale of the MN-S library could be applied towards paying off the organization's outstanding debt
- The Finance Committee and the EY could collaboratively recommend to the PMC how the proceeds should be utilized
- The sale of the library could supplement Canada's commitments to the organization's success.

It was MOVED (Gerald Morin) and SECONDED (Glen McCallum)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council accept the offer from the Manitoba Metis Federation to purchase the MN-S historic library (inclusive of the microfiche and map collection) for the amount of $500,000.

CARRIED

CONCLUSION

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting held March 31, 2016 concluded at approximately 2:45 p.m.

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LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS:

The following items were referenced during the meeting:

- Correspondence from Duchin, Bayda & Kroczynski, dated March 29, 2016 regarding "Royal Bank of Canada and Yourself – Outstanding Indebtedness"
- Correspondence from Duchin, Bayda & Kroczynski, dated March 29, 2016 regarding "Royal Bank of Canada and Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc.– Guarantee of Indebtedness"