



**MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

held December 17, 2019

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Regular Meeting held December 17, 2019 in the Canadian Room at the Saskatoon Inn, 2002 Airport Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

PRESENT: *(as indicated on a circulated sign-in sheet)*

Glen McCallum, President, Chair	Wendy Gervais, Western Region 3 (WR3)
Gerald Morin, Vice-President	Penny Hurton, Western Region 2A (WR2A)
Earl Cook, Treasurer	Billy Kennedy, Western Region 1A (WR1A)
Lisa McCallum, Secretary	Derek Langan, Eastern Region 2A (WR2A)
Jaycee Bell, Youth Council	Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2 (WR2)
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region 3 (NR3)	Tammy Mah, Les Filles des Madeleine
Ryan Carriere, Eastern Region 1 (ER1)	Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2 (NR2)
Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3 (ER3) (via teleconference)	Sherry Soll, Eastern Region 2 (ER2)

ALSO PRESENT: *(seated with the Provincial Métis Council)*

Wade Daigneault, Métis Veteran	Josie Searson, Elder
Max Morin, Elder	

MN-S OFFICE:

Brandy LaRonde, Office Manager	Hamid Shahzad, Chief Financial Officer
Dorothy Myo, Senior Policy Analyst	Louise Simard, Chief Operating Officer
Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer	Mavis Taylor, Director, MN-S Youth

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Carrie Peacock, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

AGENDA VARIED

The order of the Agenda was varied throughout the meeting. Items are indicated in these minutes in the order in which they were considered, and are numbered as indicated on the approved agenda.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Glen McCallum called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Max Morin offered an Opening Prayer.

3. APPOINTMENT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY

It was MOVED (Tammy Mah) and SECONDED (Sherry Soll)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Carrie Peacock, Raincoast Ventures Ltd., as Recording Secretary for the December 17, 2019 meeting.

CARRIED (191217-01)

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was MOVED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)

That the Agenda for the December 17, 2019 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council meeting be adopted as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Approval of the Recording Secretary
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Review of the Previous Minutes
 - 5.1 Approval of the November 8-9, 2019 PMC Minutes
 - 5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes
6. President’s Report: Government Relations
7. Canada Revenue Agency
8. Salary
9. Harvesting MOU
 - 9.1 Métis/First Nations Relations (Land Claim – Harvesting Resolution)
10. Gabriel Dumont Institute Board Appointments:
 - 10.1 For NR1 – Deanna Belhumeur
 - 10.2 For ER 2 – Viola Bell
11. Other Business:
 - 11.1 Regional Budgets
 - 11.2 In-Camera Discussions:
 - 11.2.1 Gabriel Dumont Institute / UPIP Finances
 - 11.2.2 Batoche Finances
 - 11.2.3 Court Case – Former Executive Member
12. Closing Prayer.

CARRIED (191217-02)

5. REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 Approval of the November 8-9, 2019 PMC Minutes

Secretary Lisa McCallum read aloud the resolutions indicated in the draft minutes.

It was MOVED (Derek Langan) and SECONDED (Earl Cook)

That Minutes of the November 8-9, 2019 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting be approved with the following revisions to Page 12:

- Indicate Hamid Shahzad as “Chief Financial Officer”; and
- Omit the reference to “first time home owners”, from Resolution #191109-05.

CARRIED (191217-03)

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

During discussion regarding the Minutes of the November 8-9, 2019 MN-S PMC Meeting, comments were offered on:

- A number of locals which may require governance supports, before they are prepared to review the Harvesting Act, the Constitution, or function as a self-government
- Potentially establishing a Métis Local Governance Act:
 - The Act could be structured similarly to existing provincial acts
 - The Northern Municipalities Act (for example) references different responsibilities based on community size, infrastructure, and other factors.

In response to questions raised, it was confirmed that the rights and duties of Locals, were being considered during the Constitution review process. Aspects of other regulations could be referred to in the revised Constitution.

6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Government Relations

President McCallum referenced activities and accomplishments that had occurred since his previous report to the PMC, and commented on:

- Continued engagements related to the Judicial Tribunal and the Constitutional Reform
- Requests for discussions, received from representatives of Canada’s Official Opposition
- Proactive responses from the office of the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Affairs on files of importance to the MN-S
- A visit scheduled by the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, to discuss some core issues.

5.3 Approval of the July 18, 2019 Minutes

The meeting reviewed the on-table draft Minutes of the July 18, 2019 MN-S PMC meeting. It was suggested that as the minutes were incomplete, they be referred to the next PMC meeting to enable staff to revise them accordingly (to include the correct meeting date, the complete resolution on post-secondary funding, and additional discussion notes).

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

That Minutes of the July 18, 2019 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting be referred to staff to clarify and revise, for consideration at the next PMC meeting.

CARRIED (191217-04)

7. CANADA REVENUE AGENCY

Related information: Briefing Note regarding: “Elected Officials Allowance”, dated December 13, 2019

Hamid Shahzad, Chief Financial Officer, referred to the briefing note and reported that:

- For the taxation years prior to 2019, sections of the *Income Tax Act* allowed up to 1/3 of total remuneration received by some individuals, to be tax-free as an unaccountable allowance
- Historically, MN-S’ determined that its elected officers were eligible for this exemption, consistent with other government
- Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) recently rejected the MN-S elected officials’ 2017 and 2018 unaccountable allowance, and were re-assessing their incomes
- The decision suggested that the CRA did not recognize the MN-S as an elected government
- EY was processing the MN-S’ payroll in 2017 and 2018, and have agreed to file an objection with the CRA on behalf of the MN-S; MLT will be involved as Legal Counsel, as needed.

It was MOVED (Earl Cook) and SECONDED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC) opposes the recent decision made by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), as outlined by the Chief Financial Officer on December 17, 2019;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be authorized to retain EY (and MLT Aikins as Legal Counsel, if needed) to file an appeal on behalf of current and former PMC members, to formally oppose the decision made by the CRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT each PMC member provide their written consent when requested by EY, affirming their permission to appeal on their behalf.

CARRIED (191217-05)

It was MOVED (Wendy Gervais) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)

That Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC) authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to explore with the Treasurer, the possibility of a human rights action through the Canadian Human Rights Commission (or other appropriate body), with respect to the Canada Revenue Agency’s (CRA’s) recent decision against some current and prior PMC members; and that this occur simultaneously with the appeal being initiated on the PMC’s behalf, against the CRA.

CARRIED (191217-06)

8. SALARY

Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer, noted the importance of ensuring that PMC members were remunerated as government officials, and were provided mandate letters, inclusive of the expectations of their roles.

Treasurer Cook added that the Treasurer’s position was the only PMC Executive role with a job description, which had been approved by the Finance Committee. It was further noted that:

- Consideration could be given to a multi-level salary structure, based on specific criteria (e.g. number of portfolios held)

- A description for the Regional Representative role has been prepared, which PMC members could potentially review at a workshop.

During discussion on a potential “hub” location for each region, comments were offered regarding:

- Potentially establishing “hub” locations to improve how the MN-S delivers programs and services to citizens; hubs could accommodate multiple Métis services including the registry
- Providing access to multiple services at each hub location, similar to a provincial government office (e.g. for some judicial services, accessing health cards, drivers licenses, etc.)
- Designing the hub offices similarly, in a manner that reflects the MN-S
- Benefits of establishing community health and wellness hubs in Saskatchewan, reflective of the MN-S’ strategic goals.

During discussion on holding a workshop/retreat, comments were offered on:

- Developing an agenda to guide the workshop/retreat’s discussions
- Issues to discuss at the workshop/retreat, which could include compensation, structuring the MN-S in a manner that supports the nation.

Request for Action

It was requested that the Chief Executive Officer develop a proposal for a one or two-day PMC workshop/retreat, at which discussions could ensue on matters including, but not limited to, establishing a hub to support the delivery of programs and services for Métis citizens.

During discussion on a multi-level salary grid, comments were offered on:

- The Cabinet shuffle announced at the recent Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA); resumes will be considered when determining ministerial appointments
- Preparing job descriptions for Regional Directors to help guide them in their roles
- A lack of job security associated with elected positions; succession planning is critical.

It was further noted that Dorothy Myo will be contacting each Minister early in 2020, to seek assistance and information required for drafting job descriptions.

9. HARVESTING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

9.1 Métis / First Nations Relations (Land Claim – Harvesting Resolution)

Related information:

- *Government of Saskatchewan / Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, “Memorandum of Understanding on Métis Food Harvesting Rights”, dated November 10, 2010*
- *Government of Saskatchewan / Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, “Affirmation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Métis Food Harvesting Rights”, labelled “Draft, Privileged and Confidential” and dated October 18, 2019*

President McCallum acknowledged further engagement anticipated with provincial government representatives regarding harvesting issues. It was noted that a 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) could be signed by President McCallum later in the week, affirming and extending the 2010 MOU to October 31, 2021. The extended timeframe would enable completion of the interim agreement on harvesting rights.

During discussion, it was noted that neither of the MOUs referred to the 1994 *Métis Wildlife and Conservation Act*, previously approved by the MNLA.

In response to questions raised, it was noted that:

- The *Métis Act* would continue to be the basis for discussions with Saskatchewan's Deputy Minister of Environment
- The provincial government sought to achieve the negotiated agreement on harvesting rights by the end of summer 2020
- The MOU could be amended, to acknowledge the 1994 *Métis Wildlife and Conservation Act*.

It was MOVED (Lisa McCallum) and SECONDED (Wendy Gervais)

That Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council authorizes the MN-S President to sign the "Affirmation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Métis Food Harvesting Rights", with a representative of the Government of Saskatchewan.

CARRIED (191217-07)

It was MOVED (Wendy Gervais) and SECONDED (Lisa McCallum)

That Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council directs that the interim agreement contemplated through the 2019 "Affirmation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Métis Food Harvesting Rights", acknowledge the 1994, *Métis Wildlife and Conservation Act* and related regulations.

CARRIED (191217-08)

During discussion on the negotiations enabled through the MOU, comments were offered on the feasibility of:

- Government addressing charges wrongfully issued against Métis citizens, for illegal hunting, fishing, etc.
- Achieving a unique, province-wide, culturally-appropriate and science-based harvesting agreement, which could be administered through the MN-S (not related to land claims)
- The importance of the MN-S engaging with First Nations leadership in Saskatchewan
- Affirming the collaboration between the MN-S and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) in writing, to the provincial and federal government.

It was MOVED (Gerald Morin) and SECONDED (Mervin "Tex" Bouvier)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council authorize the MN-S President to initiate discussions with the Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief for Saskatchewan (i.e. the Chief of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations).

CARRIED (191217-09)

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 2:50 p.m. and reconvened at 3:05 p.m.

10. GDI BOARD APPOINTMENTS

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

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoint Deanna Belhmeur to represent Northern Region 1 on the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Directors.

CARRIED (191217-10)

It was MOVED (Sherry Soll) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoint Viola Bell to represent Eastern Region 2 on the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Directors.

CARRIED (191217-11)

It was MOVED (Tammy Mah) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoint May Henderson to represent Western Region 2 on the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Directors.

CARRIED (191217-12)

PMC members were reminded that Regional audits would begin soon, and that representatives from Virtus Group may be contacting them directly for information.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Regional Budgets

The meeting discussed the current Regional Budgets and commented on:

- Regional budgets currently being developed by the MN-S Directors
- Inquiries by some Regions on the availability of additional funding to support Regional growth
- Opportunities to Regions to apply for additional program administration funding, whenever program funding is applied for
- Programs with opportunities for wage subsidies, including:
 - The Neil Squire Society (funded through Western Economic Diversification Canada) offers subsidized employment opportunities for people with disabilities to develop their skills; employment could be offered to the person, after completion of the program
 - A summer student program through the federal government can provide subsidized administrative support, office management, and other administrative services.

CONCLUSION

It was MOVED (Lisa McCallum) and SECONDED (Leonard Montgrand)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting held December 18, 2019 now conclude.

CARRIED (191217-13)

(Time: 3:30 p.m.)

LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were provided for information at the December 17, 2019 meeting:

1. Agenda for the MN-S Provincial Métis Council Meeting scheduled December 17, 2019
2. Draft Minutes of the November 8-9, 2019 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting
3. Draft Minutes of the July 18, 2019 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting
4. Briefing Note regarding: “Elected Officials Allowance”, dated December 13, 2019
5. Government of Saskatchewan / Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, "Memorandum of Understanding on MV@tis Food Harvesting Rights", dated November 10, 2010
6. Government of Saskatchewan / Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, "Affirmation of the Memorandum of Understanding on MV@tis Food Harvesting Rights", labelled "Draft, Privileged and Confidential" and dated October 18, 2019

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
COO	Chief Operating Officer
CRA	Canada Revenue Agency
FSIN	Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations
GDI	Gabriel Dumont Institute
MNLA	Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
MN-S	Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PMC	Provincial Métis Council
UPIP	Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples