



MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
held December 3, 2020

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Regular Meeting scheduled December 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Central Standard Time (CST) via videoconference.

PRESENT:

Glen McCallum, President
Gerald Morin, Vice-President, Chair
Earl Cook, Treasurer
Lisa McCallum, Secretary
Jaycee Bell, Youth Council
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region 3
Ryan Carriere, Eastern Region 1
Brent Digness, Eastern Region 2

Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3
Wendy Gervais, Western Region 3
Penny Hurton, Western Region 2A
Billy Kennedy, Western Region 1A
Loretta King, Western Region 1
Tammy Mah, Les Filles des Madeleine
Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2
Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2

ALSO PRESENT:

Jay Boecher, Bang Up Productions
Claire Letendre, Bang Up Productions

Norman Fleury, Elder

MN-S OFFICE:

Julia Burns, Communications Director
Mark Calette, Senior Director, Administration, Duty to Consult and Land Claims
Dorothy Myo, Senior Director of Policy and Research
Brandy Laronde, Office Manager
Lillian Lizée, Interim Senior Advisor

Craig Medwyduk, Creative Director
Adel Panahi, Director of Health
Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer
Riva Farrell Racette, Legal Counsel
Erin Reid, Chief Strategy Officer
Lori Skjeie, Director, Language and Culture

RECORDING SECRETARY:

(minutes prepared from recording)

Jessi Connaughton, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Gerald Morin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. and conducted a roll call to confirm a quorum was present.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Norman Fleury offered an Opening Prayer.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Earl Cook)

That the Agenda for the December 3, 2020 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council meeting be adopted as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Review of the Minutes:
 - 4.1 Approval of the Minutes
 - 4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Presidential Update
6. Chief Executive Officer's Report / COVID-19 Update
7. Resolution: Ratification of Ministerial Appointments
8. Resolution: Setting the Date for the Virtual Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
9. Resolution: Setting the Date for the MN-S Election
10. Resolution: Appointment of an Independent Chief Electoral Officer
11. Proposed Amendments to the MN-S *Constitution, Citizenship Act, and Elections Act*
12. Other Business
13. Closing Prayer and Conclusion.

CARRIED (201203-01)

4. REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 Approval of the Minutes – June 8, 2020 Provincial Métis Council Meeting

Related information: Draft Minutes of the June 8, 2020 Provincial Métis Council Meeting

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

It was MOVED (Billy Kennedy) and SECONDED (Penny Hurton)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council approves the appointment of Brent Digness as Regional Director for Eastern Region 2.

CARRIED (201203-02)

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Leonard Montgrand)

That the Minutes of the June 8, 2020 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting be approved, as presented.

CARRIED (201203-03)

4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

It was confirmed that the minutes of the December 3, 2020 meeting were being prepared from recording, by Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Earl Cook)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Raincoast Ventures Ltd., as Recording Secretary for the December 3, 2020 meeting.

CARRIED (201203-04)

5. PRESIDENTIAL UPDATE

President Glen McCallum recognized the success of the MN-S COVID-19 Task Force and Area Directors' efforts to keep regions and communities safe. Additional comments were offered on:

- MN-S' commitment to structure its government in a manner that citizens requested
- Progress in MN-S' relationships with the federal government, industry and First Nations
- The feasibility of signing a Harvesting Agreement with the province in early 2021
- The success of the MN-S Registry in administering over 13,000 citizenship cards
- Citizens appreciation for the MN-S' provision of supports and delivery of programs.

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

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council receives for information the December 3, 2020 Presidential Update.

CARRIED (201203-05)

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT / COVID-19 UPDATE

Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer, noted that the virtual PMC meeting would help to inform the structure of the virtual Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA). He added that MN-S staff would explore options available by consulting with other Indigenous organizations who had utilized virtual platforms for their Annual General Meetings.

Mr. Quintal acknowledged the efforts of elected officials and MN-S staff during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, and reviewed response efforts for the second wave, including:

- Funding agreements sent to each region
- MN-S' storage of non-perishable food items, for distribution across the province
- Supports available for regions' unique needs and response plans.

Marg Friesen, Minister of Health, reviewed efforts during the first wave of COVID-19, including:

- Assisting over 4,000 families with childcare and household supports
- Distribution of over 400,000 masks, 70,000 gloves and 1,100 hand sanitizer units
- Allocation of resources to provide food security to regions which were mandated to isolate
- Collaboration with municipalities and communities to ensure resources were optimized
- Establishing a toll-free COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line.

Minister Friesen added that:

- The MN-S COVID-19 response efforts prompted national recognition from Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer
- A briefing note on Phase 2 of the MN-S COVID-19 Response Plan was sent to all Area Directors
- COVID-19 supports for citizens will flow through two streams: a centralized COVID-19 Response Plan, and Regional COVID-19 Response Plans.

Request for Action

It was requested that the briefing note on Phase 2 of the MN-S COVID-19 Response Plan referenced by the Minister of Health at the December 3, 2020 Provincial Métis Council meeting, be emailed to Regional Director Penny Hurton.

During discussion on self-isolation units, it was noted that:

- Additional isolation options were required in the northwest
- A list was being developed of isolation spaces available across the province
- The cost of isolation spaces will be covered by the MN-S Central Office and will not affect regional budgets.

It was MOVED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier) and SECONDED (Billy Kennedy)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council receives for information the December 3, 2020 Chief Executive Officer’s Report / COVID-19 Update.

CARRIED (201203-06)

7. RESOLUTION: RATIFICATION OF MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

Related information: Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution for Approving Ministerial Portfolio Reassignments”, dated December 3, 2020

During discussion on the proposed resolution, comments were offered on:

- A concern raised regarding the process that should be followed to adjust ministerial appointments and portfolio assignments
- The absence of the Registry portfolio.

In response to comments raised, the meeting was informed that:

- MN-S’ ministerial appointments and portfolio assignments typically came into effect immediately upon assignment by the President, and were subject to the approval by the PMC and ratification by the MNLA (as per Article 2.4 of the *Constitution*)
- The Registry portfolio was not assigned, to keep the Registry separate from politics.

It was MOVED (Penny Hurton) and SECONDED (Sherry McClennan)

WHEREAS Articles 2.4 and 4.4(b) of the *Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Constitution* confer upon the President the sole discretion to assign Ministerial portfolios, subject to the approval of the Provincial Métis Council and ratification by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA);

WHEREAS Article 2.4 of the *Constitution* further mandates that the assignment of Ministerial portfolios is restricted to members of the MNLA;

WHEREAS President Glen McCallum determined it is in the best interest of the MN-S that certain Ministerial portfolios be reorganized and reassigned to promote an efficient and responsive government; and

WHEREAS on July 27, 2020, the President directed that Ministerial portfolios be reassigned, effective that same date and until such time as the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) confirm its approval of the same at its next duly held meeting – to be ratified at the next MNLA;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the PMC hereby confirms its approval of the following Ministerial portfolio re-assignments and Ministerial appointments as directed by President Glen McCallum on July 27, 2020:

- Child and Family Services - Minister Penny Hurton
- Economic Development and Tourism - Minister Leonard Montgrand
- Education and Early Learning - Minister Earl Cook
- Environment - Minister Mervin “Tex” Bouvier
- Finance - Minister Earl Cook
- Health - Minister Marg Friesen
- Housing and Infrastructure - Minister Ryan Carriere
- Inter-Nation Relations - Minister Loretta King
- Justice - Minister Gerald Morin
- Language, Culture and Heritage - Minister Sherry McLennan
- Sports and Recreation - Minister Billy Kennedy
- Veterans - Minister Loretta King
- Women and Gender Equality - Minister Tammy Mah
- Youth - Minister Jaycee Bell.

CARRIED (201203-07)

Regional Director Wendy Gervais voted in opposition

One member abstained from the vote

8. RESOLUTION: SETTING DATE OF VIRTUAL MÉTIS NATION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Related information:

- Briefing Note titled, “Proposed Virtual 2021 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA)”, dated December 3, 2020
- Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution to Fix/Set Date of the Virtual MNLA”, dated December 3, 2020

During discussion on the proposed resolution, comments were offered on:

- Technology for elected officials to support their participation in a virtual MNLA
- A 2019 MNLA resolution requiring elected officials to register as MN-S citizens by January 29, 2020, or resign from their position
- The inability of regions to host MNLA delegates in a socially-distanced safe space:
 - MN-S has imposed a moratorium on all in-person meetings
 - Regions are subject to employer obligations to protect employees from workplace hazards, including COVID-19
- An agreement with the MN-S Registry and the National Indian Registry, to allow cross-referencing of MN-S citizenship applications
- Technology options being reviewed to enable individuals to observe the MNLA.

Request for Action

The Chief Executive Officer agreed to provide a report on the number of registered Métis citizens in Northern Region 3 to Regional Director Mervin “Tex” Bouvier.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Penny Hurton)

WHEREAS Article 3.10 of the *Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Constitution* authorizes the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) to set the date and place for each sitting of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA);

WHEREAS the current public health restrictions in place in Saskatchewan due to COVID-19 prevent the holding of an in-person meeting of the MNLA; and

WHEREAS it is in the best interests of all Métis citizens that the MNLA meet virtually rather than in-person to protect the health and safety of all participants;

BE IT RESOLVED that the MN-S PMC set February 20 and 21, 2021 as the dates for the next sitting of the MNLA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sitting of the MNLA on February 20 and 21, 2021 be held virtually in a manner that will allow all members of the MNLA to participate in discussion and vote on resolutions before the MNLA, and will permit Métis citizens and other authorized individuals to observe the proceedings.

CARRIED (201203-08)

One member abstained from the vote

Request for Action

It was requested that Regional Directors send the Chief Executive Officer the names and contact information for each Local President to:

- *Ensure the necessary technology is provided to enable their participation in the virtual MNLA scheduled February 20-21, 2020, and to*
- *Confirm that each Local President is a registered Métis citizen.*

9. RESOLUTION: SETTING THE DATE FOR THE MN-S ELECTION

Related information:

- *Briefing Note titled, “Proposed 2021 Election Date for Métis Nation-Saskatchewan”, dated December 3, 2020*
- *Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution to Fix Date of Election Day”, dated December 3, 2020*

During discussion of the date proposed for the next MN-S election, it was noted that:

- The MN-S *Constitution* requires that an election occur within four years of the prior election
- May 29, 2021 is a Saturday, which allows for increased voter access to the polls
- Advanced polls will take place seven days prior the MN-S election date.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Brent Digness)

WHEREAS Article 8.2 of the *Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Constitution* requires elections for the Executive and Regional Representatives to be held within four years of the previous election but does not fix the specific day on which the election is to be held; and

WHEREAS the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act 2007* is proposed to be amended to define “election day” as the day fixed by resolution of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA);

BE IT RESOLVED that the MN-S Provincial Métis Council recommend to the MNLA that May 29, 2021 be fixed as an election day for the election of the Executive and Regional Representatives of the MN-S.

CARRIED (201203-09)

10. RESOLUTION: APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

Related information: Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution Approving Appointment of Chief Electoral Officer”, dated December 3, 2020

During discussion on the appointment of a Chief Electoral Officer, it was noted that Gwen Lafond:

- Worked on the 2017 MN-S election and co-produced a report of the election process with recommendations for facilitating a smoother process, and
- Participated in the 2020 Saskatchewan provincial election.

In response to questions raised, it was noted that:

- Ms. Lafond confirmed the feasibility of holding an election on May 29, 2021
- The Chief Electoral Officer will determine the Elections Team
- Appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer requires approval at the MNLA.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Leonard Montgrand)

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 92(1) of the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007* (the “Act”), a Chief Electoral Officer is appointed by resolution of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) to administer elections under the Act;

WHEREAS Section 93 confers broad administrative powers upon the Chief Electoral Officer to carry out the duties of the office of Chief Electoral Officer; and

WHEREAS Section 94 of the Act, confers upon the Chief Electoral Officer the discretionary authority to delegate, in writing, generally or specifically, any of his or her powers or duties;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- a) The Provincial Métis Council (PMC) hereby approves the appointment of Gwen Lafond to the office of Chief Electoral Officer within the meaning of the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007*, and that she exercise such administrative powers required to fulfill the duties of the office of Chief Electoral Officer, including the power to delegate any of her duties as contemplated by Section 94; and
- b) The PMC shall recommend at the next MNLA that a resolution be passed appointing Gwen Lafond as Chief Electoral Officer, pursuant to Section 92(1) of the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007*, to exercise all administrative and discretionary powers necessary to fulfill the duties of the office of Chief Electoral Officer and to fulfill the purposes of the Act.

CARRIED (201203-10)

11. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MN-S CONSTITUTION, CITIZENSHIP ACT AND ELECTIONS ACT

Related information:

- Briefing Note titled, “Legislative Amendments for Citizenship Verification and Proof of Voter Eligibility Pursuant to 2019 MNLA Resolutions”, December 3, 2020
- Briefing Note titled, “Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Métis Nation-

Saskatchewan”, December 3, 2020

- *Briefing Note titled, “Proposed Amendments to the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Citizenship Act”, December 3, 2020*
- *Briefing Note titled, “Proposed Amendments to the Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act 2007”, December 3, 2020*
- *Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution to Amend MN-S Constitution”, dated December 3, 2020*
- *Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution to Amend MN-S Citizenship Act”, December 3, 2020*
- *Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution to Amend MN-S Election Act”, December 3, 2020*
- *Schedule “A” to Resolution for Proposed Constitutional Amendments, December 3, 2020*
- *Schedule “A” to Resolution for Proposed Amendments to the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Citizenship Act, 1999, December 3, 2020*
- *Schedule “A” to Resolution for Proposed Amendments to Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007, December 3, 2020*

Dorothy Myo, Senior Director of Policy and Research, acknowledged minor amendments proposed to MN-S’ legislative documents, noting that plans for constitutional and governance reform could occur after the MN-S election. During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Amendments required prior to the MN-S election based on 2019 MNLA resolutions
- Potential impacts to Locals of the proposed amendments to Article 7 of the *Constitution*
- Clearly explaining the proposed resolutions and amendments at the next MNLA.

Due to time constraints, further consideration of this agenda item was deferred to the December 11, 2020 PMC meeting.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 MN-S Election Proposed Budget

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council directs that a resolution be presented for consideration at the next Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, to approve the proposed budget of \$850,000 for the 2021 MN-S Election.

CARRIED (201203-11)

13. CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded with a Closing Prayer provided by Elder Fleury.

It was MOVED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting held December 3, 2020 now conclude.

CARRIED (201203-12)

(Time: 1:35 p.m. CST)

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LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were provided for information at the December 3, 2020 meeting:

1. Agenda for the MN-S Provincial Métis Council Regular Meeting scheduled December 3, 2020
2. Minutes of the MN-S PMC Regular Meeting held June 8, 2020
3. Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution for Approving Ministerial Portfolio Reassignments”, December 3, 2020
4. Briefing Note titled, “Proposed Virtual 2021 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA)”, December 3, 2020
5. Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution to Fix / Set Date of the Virtual MNLA”, December 3, 2020
6. Briefing Note titled, “Proposed 2021 Election Date for Métis Nation-Saskatchewan”, December 3, 2020
7. Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution to Fix Date of Election Day”, December 3, 2020
8. Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution Approving Appointment of Chief Electoral Officer”, December 3, 2020
9. Briefing Note titled, “Legislative Amendments for Citizenship Verification and Proof of Voter Eligibility Pursuant to 2019 MNLA Resolutions”, December 3, 2020
10. Briefing Note titled, “Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan”, December 3, 2020
11. Briefing Note titled, “Proposed Amendments to the *Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Citizenship Act*”, December 3, 2020
12. Briefing Note titled, “Proposed Amendments to the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act 2007*”, December 3, 2020
13. Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution to Amend MN-S Constitution”, December 3, 2020
14. Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution to Amend MN-S Citizenship Act”, December 3, 2020
15. Proposed resolution titled, “Resolution to Amend MN-S Election Act”, December 3, 2020
16. Schedule “A” to Resolution for Proposed Constitutional Amendments, December 3, 2020
17. Schedule “A” to Resolution for Proposed Amendments to the *Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Citizenship Act, 1999*, December 3, 2020
18. Schedule “A” to Resolution for Proposed Amendments to *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007*, December 3, 2020

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

CST	Central Standard Time
MNLA	Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
MN-S	Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council