



MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
held February 16, 2021

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Regular Meeting held February 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. 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
Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2
Tammy Mah, Les Filles des Madeleine
Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2

ABSENT:

Derek Langan, Eastern Region 2A

ALSO PRESENT:

Elder Norman Fleury

MN-S OFFICE:

Janice Braden, Senior Policy Analyst
Julia Burns, Director of Communications
Mark Calette, Senior Director of Administration,
Duty to Consult and Land Claims
Christena Konrad, Director of Housing
Brandy Laronde, Office Manager
Cecile McKay, Executive Assistant

Dorothy Myo, Senior Director of Policy and Research
Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer
Riva Racette, Legal Counsel
Erin Reid, Chief Strategy Officer
Lori Skjeie, Director, Language and Culture

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Carrie Peacock, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Gerald Morin, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m. and confirmed that a quorum was present.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Norman Fleury offered an Opening Prayer.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was MOVED (Sherry McLennan) and SECONDED (Loretta King)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Raincoast Ventures Ltd. as Recording Secretary for its February 16, 2021 meeting.

CARRIED (210216-01)

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

That the Agenda for the February 16, 2021 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council meeting be adopted as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer – Elder Norman Fleury
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Review of the Minutes:
 - 4.1 Approval of the January 19, 2021 Minutes
 - 4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Resolutions:
 - 5.1 Resolution for a Virtual Elders Symposium
 - 5.2 Resolution to Accept the Revised Agenda for the February 2021 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA)
 - 5.3 Resolution for MN-S Resolutions Procedures for the MNLA
 - 5.4 Resolution for MN-S First Time Home Buyers Program – Budget Renewal
6. Update on the Virtual MNLA
7. Other Business
8. Closing Prayer.

CARRIED (210216-02)

4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Approval of the January 19, 2021 PMC Minutes

Related information: Draft Minutes of the January 19, 2021 Provincial Métis Council Regular Meeting

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

Request for Action

It was requested that future Provincial Métis Council meeting minutes indicate the names of Council members who are opposed or who abstain from voting on resolutions.

During discussion regarding the minutes, comments were offered on:

- The process for allocating Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) funding, as outlined in Resolution #210119-08
- The feasibility of carrying-over any unspent funding allocated for regional activities, if expenditures were delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

It was MOVED (Penny Hurton) and SECONDED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier)

That the Minutes of the January 19, 2021 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting be approved, as presented.

CARRIED (210216-03)

4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

No additional items were discussed.

5. RESOLUTIONS

5.1 Resolution for Virtual Elders Symposium

Related information:

- *Briefing Note on “MN-S Virtual Métis Elders Symposium”, dated February 14, 2021*
- *Draft “Resolution of the Provincial Métis Council Respecting MN-S Virtual Métis Elders Symposium”, dated February 16, 2021*

Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), reviewed the information provided and noted that:

- The proposal was to begin planning for an April 2021 MN-S Virtual Métis Elders Symposium
- The intent of the symposium was to enable Elders to meet virtually to share experiences and provide feedback or recommendations on supports they require; their feedback will be compiled and summarized for further consideration.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Identifying symposium participants, including Elders recognized by Regional Directors and Elders who participated in Elders’ UPIP Programs
- Some of the different roles Elders have, as knowledgeable advisors on traditional, spiritual, teaching and negotiations matters
- The importance of authentically engaging with the growing demographic of older MN-S citizens and encouraging their participation in the Métis Nation.

It was MOVED (Sherry McLennan) and SECONDED (Ryan Carriere)

WHEREAS the guidance, narratives and teachings of Métis Elders strengthens the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) as a Nation;

WHEREAS the MN-S intends to increase an understanding of how to engage and collaborate with the Nation’s Elders;

WHEREAS in collaboration with the Resident Elder, MN-S technicians have recommended at this meeting of February 16, 2021, that the MN-S coordinate and deliver an MN-S Virtual Métis Elders Symposium; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Métis Council hereby authorizes and approves of MN-S technicians coordinating and hosting an MN-S Virtual Elders Symposium as presented and proposed at this meeting of February 16, 2021.

CARRIED (210216-04)

5.2 Resolution to Accept the Revised Agenda for the February 2021 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA)

Related information: Draft “Resolution of the Provincial Métis Council Adopting Revised Agenda / Order of the Day for the February 20-21, 2021 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly”

Richard Quintal confirmed that the MNLA agenda included a focus on resolutions required to support the 2021 MN-S Election. During a review of the revised MNLA agenda, it was noted that:

- A total of 28 resolutions were received for consideration, of which eight were deemed to be out of order
- The revised MNLA agenda included the resolutions to be considered; the remaining resolutions received will be considered for the next MNLA, likely in the fall of 2021.

During discussion on a resolution submitted requesting Youth and Women Representatives be included on the MN-S election ballot every four years, comments were offered on:

- A constitutional amendment required to make the requested changes to the election process
- Postponing consideration of this resolution to later in 2021 to provide time for consultation; if approved, the changes could be effective for the subsequent MN-S election process.

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

WHEREAS the Provincial Métis Council (PMC), at their duly held meeting on December 3, 2020, resolved that a Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) would be called for February 20 and 21, 2021;

WHEREAS the PMC further resolved that the February 20 and 21, 2021 MNLA would be held virtually, as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in effect;

WHEREAS Articles 6.2 and 6.3 of the *Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly Act* (the Act), as amended, directs the Clerk of the MNLA, as defined in Article 2.4 of the Act, to draft an agenda for the MNLA as directed by the PMC, and to compile the necessary documentation for the “Order of the Day”;

WHEREAS an agenda for the February 20 and 21, 2021, MNLA was approved at the January 19, 2021, PMC meeting;

AND WHEREAS a revised agenda is hereby proposed by the Clerk to the PMC for its approval for the February 20 and 21, 2021, MNLA;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC at this meeting of February 16, 2021, approves of the following revised Agenda to be referred to the MNLA on February 20 and 21, 2021:

DAY ONE – February 20, 2021:

1. Grand Entry:
 - a) Opening Prayer – Elder Norman Fleury
 - b) Métis National Anthem – Loretta King (pre-recorded)
 - c) O Canada – Loretta King (pre-recorded)
2. Greetings (pre-recorded):
 - a) Carolyn Bennett, Minister, Crown Indigenous Relations, Government of Canada
 - b) Chief Wayne Semaganis, Little Pine First Nation
 - c) Don McMorris, Government Relations, Government of Saskatchewan

3. State of the Nation – Glen McCallum, President, MN-S
4. Report on MN-S’ Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic – Marg Friesen, Minister of Health
5. Roll Call – Richard Quintal, Clerk of the MNLA:
 - a) Registered Delegates
6. Health Break
7. MNLA Motions:
 - a) Adoption of the Minute Taker
 - b) Adoption of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker
 - c) Order of the Day – Adoption of the Agenda
 - d) Appointment of Dumont’s Scouts
 - e) Adoption of New/Dissolved Locals
8. Reading of the November 2019 MNLA Minutes:
 - a) Adoption of the November 2019 MNLA Minutes
9. Ratification of the MN-S Election – May 29, 2021
10. Appointment of Chief Electoral Officer – Gwen Lafond
11. Chief Executive Officer’s Report – Richard Quintal, CEO
12. Lunch Break
13. Motions and Resolutions:
 - a) Resolutions Brought Forward by the PMC:
 - Proposed Amendments to the “*Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act 2007*”
 - Proposed Amendments to the “*Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Citizenship Act, 1999*”
 - b) Other Resolutions Brought Forward by the PMC:
 - Ratification of Ministerial Appointments
 - Approval of MN-S’ Response to United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Federal Legislation
14. Health Break
15. Adjournment – Day One
16. Entertainment / Virtual Kitchen Table Party

DAY TWO – February 21, 2021:

1. Opening Prayer – Elder Max Morin
2. Roll Call – Richard Quintal, Clerk of the MNLA
3. Legal Update – Tom Isaac, Partner, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP
4. UNDRIP Panel Presentation – Riva Farrell Racette, Legal Counsel / Moderator
 - a) Gerald Morin, Vice President and Minister of Justice, MN-S
 - b) Marilyn Poitras, Indigenous Law Centre, University of Saskatchewan
 - c) Emilie Lahaie, Legal Counsel, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP
5. Video Presentation “Importance of Métis Citizenship, Identity and Familial Connections” – Dr. Kurtis Boyer, Faculty, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan
6. Motions to Accept Reports:
 - a) Executive
 - b) Regional
 - c) Ministerial
 - d) Affiliates

7. Budget:
 - a) Motion to Accept the 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements
 - b) Appointment of the Auditor for 2020-2021
8. Adjournment – Day Two

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the MNLA prepare the Order of the Day, as defined in Article 2.11 of the *Act*, to reflect the revised Agenda as approved by this resolution of the PMC on February 16, 2021.

CARRIED (210216-05)

*Jaycee Bell and Wendy Gervais voted in opposition
Brent Digness abstained from the vote*

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 10:20 a.m. and reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

5.3 Resolution for MN-S Resolutions Procedures for MNLA

Related information:

- *Briefing Note on “MN-S Resolutions Procedures for the MNLA”, dated February 16, 2021*
- *Draft “Resolution of the Provincial Métis Council Respecting MN-S Resolutions Procedures”, dated February 16, 2021*

The meeting reviewed the information provided regarding resolution procedures.

It was MOVED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier) and SECONDED (Marg Friesen)

WHEREAS there is currently no established process or guidelines to manage the submission of Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) resolutions;

WHEREAS resolutions procedures will provide greater clarity and set the directional tone for members of the MNLA to submit effective and appropriate resolutions;

WHEREAS resolutions procedures have been proposed and recommended to the Provincial Métis Council (PMC), at this meeting of February 16, 2021, to establish standards and guidance to members of the MNLA for tabling resolutions before the Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC hereby endorses and approves of the MN-S Resolutions Procedures as proposed and presented at this meeting of February 16, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PMC shall recommend the MN-S Resolutions Procedures for implementation, subject to legal and annual review by MN-S technicians, to the MNLA, at its next sitting.

CARRIED (210216-06)

5.4 MN-S First-Time Home Buyers Program – Budget Renewal

Related information:

- *Briefing Note on “MN-S First-Time Home Buyers Program”, dated February 15, 2021*
- *Draft “Resolution of the Provincial Métis Council Respecting First-Time Home Buyers Program”, dated February 16, 2021*

Richard Quintal reviewed the proposal to transition the First-Time Home Buyers Program (FTHBP), into the MN-S Housing Department (effective April 1, 2021).

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- The feasibility of increasing the program funding allocated from \$1,000,000 to “up to \$2,000,000”, for each of the four fiscal years included in the four-year budget plan
- Providing FTHBP recipients with access to an introductory financial literacy program, where they can learn about basic financial commitments related to owning a home, including saving for repairs and maintenance, understanding mortgage rates and home insurance, etc.
- Staff’s ongoing consideration of aspects of various loan and mortgage models that could assist citizens (e.g. Ministerial Loan Guarantees offered by the federal government)
- Benefits of focusing on homeownership opportunities for MN-S citizens
- Involving multiple MN-S departments in seeking supports for FTHBP initiatives.

In response to questions raised, it was noted that:

- The FTHBP did not exclude the involvement of mortgage guarantors or co-signors
- To-date, 155 FTHBP applications had been received (94 had been approved)
- Approximately 58 home purchases could be supported with \$1,000,000 (estimated at \$15,000 per application plus closing costs).

It was MOVED (Sherry McLennan) and SECONDED (Earl Cook)

WHEREAS the current Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) First-Time Home Buyers Program (FTHBP) is administered by Saskatchewan Métis Economic Development Corporation (SMEDCO);

WHEREAS SMEDCO is projecting to fully expense the FTHBP budget by March 31, 2021;

WHEREAS the MN-S government is working on building a comprehensive suite of housing programs directly under the MN-S Housing Department;

WHEREAS it has been proposed and recommended to the Provincial Métis Council (PMC), at this meeting of February 16, 2021, that the MN-S, through its Housing Department, assume authority over the administration and delivery of the FTHBP;

WHEREAS a proposed four-year budget of \$1,129,595, \$1,150,000, \$1,150,000 and \$1,150,000, for fiscal years 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25, respectively, (the “Four Year Budget”) was presented at this meeting on February 16, 2021 and was recommended for the PMC’s approval;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, at this meeting of February 16, 2021, that the PMC hereby authorizes the MN-S Housing Department to assume authority over the administration and delivery of the FTHBP as presented and proposed at this meeting of February 16, 2021, effective April 1, 2021;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after considering the Four-Year Budget presented on February 16, 2021, the PMC hereby approves an amended Four-Year Budget of up to \$9,200,000 in the following allocations:

- a) up to \$2,300,000 for fiscal year 2021/22, representing up to \$2,000,000 for program funding and \$300,000 for administration;
- b) up to \$2,300,000 for fiscal year 2022/23, representing up to \$2,000,000 for program funding and \$300,000 for administration;
- c) up to \$2,300,000 for fiscal year 2023/24, representing up to \$2,000,000 for program funding and \$300,000 for administration; and
- d) up to \$2,300,000 for fiscal year 2024/25, representing up to \$2,000,000 for program funding and \$300,000 for administration;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MN-S Housing Department offer all recipients of the FTHBP funding, access to a financial literacy program where they can learn about the basic financial commitments related to homeownership (including understanding mortgages and insurance, saving for home repairs, etc.); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of the MN-S be hereby authorized and directed to take all actions required to execute all such documents as they deem necessary or appropriate to effectuate this resolution.

CARRIED (210216-07)

6. UPDATE ON VIRTUAL MNLAS

During discussion on preparations for the February 20-21, 2021 MN-S MNLA, it was noted that:

- Eligible voters at the MNLA will be registered MN-S citizens or those confirmed to be in the process of becoming registered MN-S citizens
- Area Directors were requested to provide the MN-S office with a list of delegates in their area; delegates were subsequently invited to register electronically, to participate in the MNLA
- iPads were provided to enable registered delegates to participate at the MNLA; their citizenship numbers will be required to log in; Local Presidents can retain the iPads for accessing future virtual assemblies or meetings.

Request for Action

Dorothy Myo agreed to send Area Directors a list of delegates in their areas that had not yet registered to participate in the February 20-21, 2021 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting was reminded that the next PMC Meeting was scheduled March 16, 2021.

8. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

Elder Fleury offered a Closing Prayer.

It was MOVED (Penny Hurton) and SECONDED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier”)

That the February 16, 2021 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council meeting now conclude.

CARRIED (210216-08)

(Time: 11:20 a.m.)

LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were provided for information at the February 16, 2021 meeting:

1. Agenda for the MN-S Provincial Métis Council Regular Meeting scheduled February 16, 2021
2. Draft Minutes of the MN-S PMC Regular Meeting held January 19, 2021
3. Briefing Note on “MN-S Virtual Métis Elders Symposium”, dated February 14, 2021
4. Draft “Resolution of the Provincial Métis Council Respecting MN-S Virtual Métis Elders Symposium”, dated February 16, 2021
5. Draft “Resolution of the Provincial Métis Council Adopting Revised Agenda / Order of the Day for the February 20-21, 2021 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly”
6. Briefing Note on “MN-S Resolutions Procedures for the MNLA”, dated February 16, 2021
7. Draft “Resolution of the Provincial Métis Council Respecting MN-S Resolutions Procedures”, dated February 16, 2021
8. Briefing Note on “MN-S First Time Home Buyers Program”, dated February 15, 2021
9. Draft “Resolution of the Provincial Métis Council Respecting First Time Home Buyers Program”, dated February 16, 2021
10. Biography of Gwen Lafond (requested at a prior PMC Meeting)

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
FTHBP	First-Time Home Buyers Program
MNLA	Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
MN-S	Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council
SMEDCO	Saskatchewan Métis Economic Development Corporation
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UPIP	Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples