



MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
held August 17, 2021

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Regular Meeting scheduled August 17, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at the Delta Hotels Saskatoon Downtown, 405 20th Street East, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

PRESENT:

Glen McCallum, President
Michelle LeClair, Vice President, Chair
Robert LaFontaine, Treasurer
Lisa McCallum, Secretary
Jaycee Bell, Youth Council
Laura Burnouf, Northern Region 1
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region 3
(joined via videoconference)
Ryan Carriere, Eastern Region 1
Brent Digness, Eastern Region 2

Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3
Wendy Gervais, Western Region 3
Billy Kennedy, Western Region 1A
Loretta King, Western Region 1
Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2
Tammy Mah, Les Filles de Madeleine
Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2
Kathie Pruden Nansel, Western Region 2A
Tim Roussin, Eastern Region 2A

ALSO PRESENT:

Elder Norman Fleury
Felix Merasty, Veteran and Dumont’s Scout

Elder Max Morin
Matt Vermette (for Item 6.1 only)

MN-S OFFICE:

Janice Braden, Senior Policy Analyst
Dorothy Myo, Senior Director of Policy and Research
Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer

Josh Morrison, Legal Counsel, MLT Aikins
Erin Reid, Chief Strategy Officer

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Carrie Peacock, Recording Secretary, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:10 a.m., after quorum was confirmed.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Norman Fleury offered an Opening Prayer.

3. WELCOMING REMARKS

President McCallum reviewed collaborations achieved with other Indigenous governments, communities and organizations; upcoming discussions on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; and new economic development opportunities, which supported the need for the PMC to act responsibly. He confirmed that the meeting was being live-streamed.

Meeting Recessed

The meeting recessed at 9:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

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

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Raincoast Ventures Ltd. as Recording Secretary for its August 17, 2021, meeting.

CARRIED (210817-01)

A roll call confirmed PMC members in attendance.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Related information (provided in advance): Draft Agenda for the August 17, 2021, PMC Meeting

The Mover and Seconder agreed to the addition of agenda items under “Other Business”.

It was MOVED (Sherry McLennan) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)

That the Agenda for the August 17, 2021, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council meeting be adopted as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Welcoming Remarks
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Review of the Minutes:
 - 5.1 Approval of the July 20, 2021 Minutes
 - 5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes
6. Resolutions:
 - 6.1 Approval of Purchase of Real Property
 - 6.2 Approval of Portfolio Assignments
 - 6.3 Approval of Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Dates: November 26-28, 2021
7. Back to Batoche – September 2-5, 2021
8. Other Business:
 - 8.1 Women
 - 8.2 Financial Updates
 - 8.3 Regional Protocols
 - 8.4 Hotel Venues
 - 8.5 Local Presidents’ Wages / Honoraria
 - 8.6 Northern Region 3
9. Conclusion and Closing Prayer.

CARRIED (210817-02)

5. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Approval of the July 20, 2021 PMC Minutes

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Minutes of the July 20, 2021 PMC Meeting

Provincial Secretary McCallum read aloud the resolutions included in the minutes.

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

During discussion on the minutes, Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer, read aloud an August 13, 2021 letter received from the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, which:

- Affirmed the Government of Canada's (Canada's) commitment to work with the MN-S, to implement the June 27, 2019, Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement (MGRSA), based on the recognition, affirmation, and implementation of Métis rights protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982 (Constitution)*
- Announced that an Interim Fiscal Financing Agreement had been finalized, in the amount of \$21,931,317 to implement the MGRSA further, and the commitments made to advancing self-determination for the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan
- Confirmed Canada's commitment to work with the MN-S to establish predictable multi-year funding for continued negotiations and to explore claims against the federal Crown
- Addressed the MN-S' concerns about potential impacts of the July 6, 2021 agreement that Canada signed with the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), which defined "Manitoba Métis" as only "one of the Métis collectivities that together make up the Métis Nation"
- Canada's willingness to prioritize collaboration with the MN-S, to seek the mandates needed to apply the federal rights-recognition policies and techniques employed in the MMF-Canada Agreement, to Canada's agreements with the MN-S.

President McCallum acknowledged supports outlined in the letter and emphasized the importance of remaining focused on the MN-S' continued progress.

During discussion, comments were offered on the September 20-23, 2021 PMC Retreat in Kananaskis, Alberta, regarding:

- Holding the MN-S Retreat virtually if necessary, due to pandemic restrictions
- Transitioning from a not-for-profit structure to a self-government
- Reminding PMC members to vote in advance polling for the federal election
- Potential agenda items for consideration, including:
 - o The Canada-Métis Nation Accord and the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism
 - o Negotiations to Support Île-à-la-Crosse Boarding School Survivors
 - o The August 13, 2021 Letter from the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
 - o MN-S Funding, Infrastructure, Program Delivery, Workplans, Policies and Staff Salaries
 - o The MN-S Governance Structure (including the Métis Women of Saskatchewan and the Provincial Métis Youth Council)
 - o Constitutional Reform and Community Engagement Processes.

It was noted that an online election process was planned for the Provincial Métis Youth Council. The election date will be conveyed to the PMC (likely August 23, 2021).

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

That the Minutes of the July 20, 2021, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting be approved as amended, to indicate that Resolution #210720-04 and Resolution #210720-08 were both “CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”.

CARRIED (210817-03)

Change in Chair

President McCallum and Vice President LeClair left the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Secretary McCallum assumed the Chair pending their return.

6. RESOLUTIONS

6.1 Approval of Purchase of Real Property

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft “Resolution to Approve Purchase of Real Property”, labeled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution” and dated August 17, 2021

Richard Quintal reviewed the intent of the draft resolution to approve the purchase of two properties intended for establishing a La Faamii programs and services hub, where Métis citizens and families could access culturally relevant supports and services. Matt Vermette’s involvement in the project, was acknowledged.

11:30 a.m.

President McCallum and Vice President LeClair rejoined the meeting.

The draft “Resolution to Approve Purchase of Real Property”, was read aloud.

11:40 a.m.

Matt Vermette joined the meeting.

During discussion, the following comments were offered:

- The project was initiated by the prior administration to address gaps in programs and services:
 - o The Finance Committee supported the fiscal decision to purchase the property
 - o Funding was negotiated for the project to support families after the pandemic
- A total of \$1,539,961.50 was offered to acquire Unit 113 and Unit 223 at 123 Avenue B S, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; the PMC’s approval is a condition of the purchase proceeding
- A full business plan and facility model will be prepared if the purchase proceeds:
 - o One of the units is situated on the ground floor, and the other is directly above
 - o The MN-S would own both units, which could potentially be resold in the future as combined or separate assets
 - o Photos of the properties could be provided.

Request for Action (RFA-210817-01)

The Finance Committee agreed to prepare a briefing note for the Provincial Métis Council, with information on all properties the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan currently owns.

It was MOVED (Kathie Pruden Nansel) and SECONDED (Brent Digness)

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) to establish a programs and services hub for Métis citizens and their families as part of La Faamii pilot project initiative;

WHEREAS the establishment of La Faamii programs and services hub will ensure that Métis citizens and families can access culturally-relevant supports and services;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) Ministry of Child and Family Services has identified certain real properties located at #113 and #223 of “the Blok” at 123 Avenue B S in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (the Property), that will be a suitable site for the establishment of La Faamii hub, as described above;

WHEREAS on July 14, 2021, an offer for purchase of Unit #113 – 123 Avenue B S was presented to the owners of the Property in the net amount of \$771,750.00 (including GST);

WHEREAS on July 14, 2021, an offer for purchase of Unit #223 – 123 Avenue B S was presented to the owners of the Property in the net amount of \$768,211.50 (including construction credits and GST);

WHEREAS the total amount being offered to acquire both properties is \$1,539,961.50;

WHEREAS the aforesaid offers were conditional on inter alia obtaining the approval of the PMC within sixty days of acceptance of the conditional offer;

WHEREAS the conditional offer was accepted on July 16, 2021, and the deadline for obtaining the approval of the PMC shall expire on September 10, 2021; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Child and Family Services has recommended to the PMC that the Property be purchased as the site of La Faamii services hub at this duly convened meeting of August 17, 2021, subject to satisfactory completion of all necessary due diligence inquiries.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC hereby approves of the purchase of the properties located at 113 and 223 of “the Blok” at 123 Avenue B S in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, as presented at this meeting of August 17, 2021, as the future site of La Faamii hub of programs and services, subject to satisfactory completion of all necessary due diligence inquiries and removal of associated conditions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (210817-04)

Health Break

A meal blessing was offered by Elder Max Morin. The meeting recessed at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Change in Chair

Vice President LeClair assumed the Chair at 1:30 p.m.

Matt Vermette reviewed photos of the properties located at 113 and 223 of “the Blok”, at 123 Avenue B S in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

1:45 p.m.

Matt Vermette left the meeting.

6.2 Approval of Portfolio Assignments

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft “Resolution to Approve Portfolio Assignments”, labeled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution” and dated August 17, 2021

It was MOVED (Laura Burnouf) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)

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

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

WHEREAS Article 2.4 of the *Constitution* provides that the President shall assign and recommend portfolios, subject to the approval of the PMC and ratification by the MNLA, and the assignment of portfolios shall be restricted to members of the MNLA;

AND WHEREAS the President has made the following appointments of Ministerial Portfolios on July 20, 2021, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan:

- Child Family Services: Minister Kathie Pruden Nansel
- Culture and Heritage: Minister Sherry Ann McLennan
- Economic Development: President Glen McCallum
- Early Learning and Childcare and Education: Minister Tim J.W. Roussin
- Environment: Minister Mervin “Tex” Bouvier
- Justice: Vice President Michelle LeClair
- Health (Interim appointment for six months from July 2021): Minister Marg Friesen
- Housing and Infrastructure: Minister Ryan Carriere
- Inter-Nation Relations: President Glen McCallum and Vice President Michelle LeClair
- Language: Minister Laura Burnouf
- Post-Secondary Education and Skills Development: Minister Leonard Montgrand
- Sports: Minister Billy Kennedy
- Tourism: Minister Brent W.J. Digness
- Veterans: Minister Wendy Gervais
- Women and Gender Equity: Minister Loretta King
- Youth: Minister Jaycee Bell

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministerial Portfolio appointments made by the President as aforesaid, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (210817-05)

6.3 Setting the Date for the Next Métis Nation Legislative Assembly

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft “Resolution on Setting the Date for the Next Métis Nation Legislative Assembly”, labeled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution”, and dated August 17, 2021

In response to questions raised, it was noted that a General Assembly may be scheduled to coincide with the MNLA if constitutional amendments need to be ratified. A committee may be tasked to address applicable COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and precautions.

It was MOVED (Laura Burnouf) and SECONDED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier)

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a MNLA be held on November 26, 27 and 28, 2021, at Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth Street West, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (210817-06)

7. BACK TO BATOCHE 2021

Sherry McLennan, Minister of Culture and Heritage, provided updates on the September 2-5, 2021 Back to Batoche event, and commented on:

- Free parking and campsites announced for Back to Batoche 2021; PMC members can contact the MN-S office to request a campsite
- Back to Batoche events scheduled to begin on September 2, 2021, including:
 - o A baseball tournament (Regions could each sponsor a baseball team for \$500/team)
 - o Chuckwagon chariots, karaoke, games, Indian relays, cultural camps, bingo, entertainment, jigging, and other activities
 - o Opening ceremonies on September 3, 2021, with President McCallum
- Plans to acknowledge the names of citizens who succumbed to COVID-19; their names and information can be provided in advance to Minister McLennan
- Arranging for rapid COVID-19 testing, hand sanitizing stations, and temperature checks at the Batoche site entry gate.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Women

Related information (provided on-table): Minutes of the April 10-11, 2021 Meeting of Les Filles de Madeleine Secretariat Inc.

Tammy Mah, President, Les Filles de Madeleine Secretariat Inc. (LFDM), reported that the LFDM elections may be held September 17-19, 2021, in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. It was noted that three regions had not yet assigned a Regional Representative to the LFDM.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- References in the *Constitution* to the “Métis Women of Saskatchewan”
- Requesting staff involved in previous MN-S elections to support upcoming elections for the Métis Women of Saskatchewan and the Provincial Métis Youth Council, to ensure consistency.

It was suggested that the LFDM elections be postponed until after the September 20-23, 2021 PMC Retreat to provide more time to consider a transparent, democratic and defensible process, that supports equal engagement with Métis women across Saskatchewan.

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 2:45 p.m. and reconvened at 2:55 p.m.

8.2 Financial Updates

8.2.1 MN-S Travel Policy

Related information (displayed at the meeting): Proposed revisions to the “MN-S Travel Policy”

Marg Friesen, Minister of Finance, reviewed revisions proposed to the “MN-S Travel Policy”, and offered the following comments:

- Travel budgets were proposed for the President (up to \$12,000) and the Vice President (up to \$10,000); travel claims from the Secretary and Treasurer will be submitted
- An annual travel budget (for mileage related to MN-S business) was proposed for Ministerial Portfolio Holders (up to \$10,000)
- Vehicles were leased for some Regions to provide “COVID-19” supports and deliveries; alternatives to the vehicle leases may be considered when the leases are concluded
- Establishing a travel plan would assist in forecasting Ministers’ travel costs for the year ahead.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Tim Roussin)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) approve the revisions proposed to the “MN-S Travel Policy”, as presented to the PMC on August 17, 2021.

CARRIED (210817-07)

Three abstentions (including Wendy Gervais and Lisa McCallum)

Wendy Gervais specified that she abstained from the vote, as her request to table the MN-S Travel Policy was not considered.

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 4:20 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m.

8.2.2 MN-S Policy Governing Financial Reporting, Audits and Compliance by Funding Recipients

Related information (displayed at the meeting): Proposed “MN-S Policy Governing Financial Reporting, Audits and Compliance by Funding Recipients”

Minister Friesen reviewed the proposed “MN-S Policy Governing Financial Reporting, Audits and Compliance by Funding Recipients”, and offered the following comments:

- Annual Regional Capacity Budgets need to be submitted by Regional Councils to enable funds to be released to the Region
- After the applicable audits are completed, the funds can be allocated accordingly.

It was MOVED (Robert LaFontaine) and SECONDED (Tammy Mah)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) adopt, on an interim basis, pending ratification at the September 20-23, 2021 PMC Retreat, the “MN-S Policy Governing Financial Reporting, Audits and Compliance by Funding Recipients”, as presented to the PMC on August 17, 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (210817-08)

During discussion, comments were offered on providing supports (e.g. an auditor and a bookkeeper) to assist Regions in complying with their fiscal and reporting responsibilities.

8.2.3 Remuneration for PMC Members and Ministerial Portfolio-Holders

Richard Quintal commented on “Remuneration for PMC Members and Ministerial Portfolio-Holders” and referenced:

- Prior discussions on achieving parity with Provincial Government’s Ministerial pay scales
- Additional wage top-ups received by Provincial Ministers for portfolios they hold
- Discussions needed on determining top-ups for portfolio-holders with multiple portfolios.

It was MOVED (Robert LaFontaine) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC) table “Remuneration for PMC Members and Ministerial Portfolio-Holders” for discussion at the September 20-23, 2021 PMC Retreat.

CARRIED (210817-09)

8.3 Regional Protocols

During discussion on “Regional Protocols”, comments were offered on:

- Ensuring the “MN-S Handbook for Executives, Ministers and Members of the Provincial Métis Council” includes guidance on respectful communications with colleagues and citizens
- Potentially establishing a Dispute Resolution Committee to assist in resolving conflicts that may occur between Regions.

8.4 Hotel Venues

During discussion on “Hotel Venues”, it was suggested that the Finance Committee seek quotes from hotels that provide natural lighting and windows in their conference rooms.

It was MOVED (Leonard Montgrand) and SECONDED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) requests that quotes be obtained from hotels in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, for the Finance Committee’s consideration, to assist in identifying a consistent location for holding future PMC meetings.

CARRIED (210817-10)

8.5 Local Presidents’ Wages / Honoraria

During discussion on “Local Presidents Wages / Honoraria”, comments were offered on:

- Retaining an Actuary to consider compensation for Local Presidents
- Encouraging Local Presidents to consider funding opportunities available in their Regions
- Convincing governments to consider how Métis citizens are impacted when Duty to Consult and Accommodate policies are disregarded.

Further discussion on this item was deferred to the next PMC meeting.

8.6 Northern Region 3

Discussion on this item was deferred to the next PMC meeting.

9. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

It was MOVED (Robert Lafontaine)

That the August 17, 2021, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council meeting, now conclude.

CARRIED (210817-11)
(Time: 5:40 p.m.)

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LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were provided or considered at the August 17, 2021 meeting:

1. Agenda for the August 17, 2021, MN-S Provincial Métis Council Regular Meeting
2. Draft Minutes of the July 20, 2021 MN-S PMC Regular Meeting
3. Correspondence received from the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, dated August 13, 2021
4. Draft “Resolution to Approve Purchase of Real Property”, labeled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution” and dated August 17, 2021
5. Draft “Resolution to Approve Portfolio Assignments”, labeled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution” and dated August 17, 2021
6. Draft “Resolution on Setting the Date for the Next Métis Nation Legislative Assembly”, labeled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution”, and dated August 17, 2021
7. Minutes of the April 10-11, 2021 Meeting of Les Filles de Madeleine Secretariat Inc.
8. Proposed revisions to the “MN-S Travel Policy”
9. Proposed “MN-S Policy Governing Financial Reporting, Audits and Compliance by Funding Recipients”

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

LFDM	Les Filles de Madeleine
MGRSA	Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement
MMF	Manitoba Metis Federation
MNLA	Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
MN-S	Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council