



**MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**
held November 15, 2021

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Regular Meeting scheduled November 15, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. by videoconference.

PRESENT:

Glen McCallum, President
Michelle LeClair, Vice President, Chair
Robert LaFontaine, Treasurer
Lisa McCallum, Secretary
(departed at approximately 5:00 p.m.)
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region 3
Laura Burnouf, Northern Region 1
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
Autumn LaRose-Smith, Provincial Métis Youth Council
Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2
Tammy Mah, Les Filles de Madeleine
(arrived at approximately 10:30 a.m.)
Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2
(arrived at approximately 10:30 a.m.)
Kathie Pruden Nansel, Western Region 2A

ABSENT:

Tim Roussin, Eastern Region 2A

ALSO PRESENT:

Elder Norman Fleury
Brian Heinrichs, Virtus Group LLP (for Item 9.1)

Jane Zaleschuk, Virtus Group LLP (for Item 9.1)

MN-S OFFICE:

Jordyn Burnouf, Advisor to the Vice President
Cole Chretien, Policy Analyst
Brandy Laronde, Legislative Coordinator
Dorothy Myo, Senior Director of Policy and Research
Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer

Riva Racette, Legal Counsel
Susan Shacter, Policy Analyst, Policy and Research
Hamid Shahzad, Chief Financial Officer
Shahab Yaqoob, Deputy Director, Budgeting and Planning

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Carrie Peacock, Recording Secretary

AGENDA VARIED

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:05 a.m. after quorum was confirmed.

3. ROLL CALL

A roll call confirmed PMC members in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY

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

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Carrie Peacock as Recording Secretary for its November 15, 2021 meeting.

CARRIED (211115-01)

4. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Norman Fleury offered an Opening Prayer.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Related information: Draft Agenda for the November 15, 2021, MN-S PMC Meeting

It was MOVED (Kathie Pruden Nansel) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)

That the Agenda for the November 15, 2021, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council meeting be adopted, as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Recording Secretary
3. Roll Call
4. Opening Prayer
5. Approval of the Agenda
6. Opening Remarks from the President
 - 6.1 Introduction of the Newly Elected Provincial Métis Youth Council President
7. Review of the Minutes
8. Approval of the Minutes:
 - 8.1 Approval of the October 19, 2021 Minutes
 - 8.2 Business Arising from the Minutes
9. MNLA Resolutions:
 - 9.1 Approval of the MN-S Secretariat Inc. Audited Financial Statements (2020-21)
 - 9.2 Appointment of the Auditor for 2021-22
 - 9.3 Fiscal Year Budget
 - 9.4 Resolutions Not Considered at the Prior MNLA
10. Resolutions:
 - 10.1 Revised Ministerial Appointments
 - 10.2 Ministerial Salaries
 - 10.3 Establishing Travel Guidelines
11. MN-S Owned Properties
12. Supplementary COVID-19 Supports for Utilities
13. Other Business:
 - 13.1 Regional Quarterly Funding
 - 13.2 Métis Women of Saskatchewan / Les Filles de Madeleine - Election Update
 - 13.3 Provincial Secretary's Workplan

- 13.4 Human Resources Committee
- 13.5 Judicial Review
- 13.6 COVID-19 Task Force
- 13.7 Reaching Home Funding – Support from the PMC
- 13.8 Regional Matters
- 14. Conclusion and Closing Prayer.

CARRIED (211115-02)

6. OPENING REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President McCallum welcomed the recently elected Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC) President, and confirmed that she would be introduced at the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA).

6.1 Introduction of Newly Elected Provincial Métis Youth Council President

Autumn LaRose-Smith, President, PMYC, extended appreciation for the welcoming comments and the assignments outlined in the mandate letter from the President.

7. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

This item was considered under Item 8.

8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

8.1 Approval of the October 19, 2021 Minutes

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Minutes of the October 19, 2021, PMC Meeting

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

8.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

During discussion on the minutes, it was requested that a brief in-camera session be held immediately after consideration of Item 8.2 – Business Arising from the Minutes.

It was MOVED (Brent Digness) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)

That the Agenda for the November 15, 2021, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting be varied to include an “In-Camera Discussion”, immediately after “Item 8.2 – Business Arising from the Minutes”.

CARRIED (211115-03)

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Kathie Pruden Nansel)

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

CARRIED (211115-04)

IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION

The meeting recessed for an in-camera discussion at 9:51 a.m. and reconvened at 10:30 a.m. Regional Directors Tammy Mah and Leonard Montgrand were present when the meeting resumed.

9. MNLA RESOLUTIONS

9.1 Approval of the MN-S Secretariat Inc. Audited Financial Statements (2020-21)

Related information (provided with the agenda):

- “Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc., Non-Consolidated Financial Statements, March 31, 2021”
- “Resolution to Accept the Audited Financial Statement, 2020-2021”, labelled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution”

Brian Heinrichs, Virtus Group LLP, referred to the documents provided and commended MN-S management for their assistance with supporting the completion of the financial statements.

Jane Zaleschuk, Virtus Group LLP, led the meeting in a review of the financial statements.

In response to questions raised, Virtus Group LLP representatives offered clarifications regarding:

- Deficits shown in some of the schedules reflecting amounts carried forward for multi-year programs, which will not be reflected in future schedules
- Additional information provided in the notes attached to the financial statements, which outlined the MN-S’ relationships with:
 - o SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation (SMEDCO);
 - o Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research Inc.; and
 - o Muskwa Development Corporation (a subsidiary of SMEDCO).

During discussion, additional comments were offered on:

- Supporting Regional Directors with training and funding for auditing and bookkeeping
- The Finance Committee’s review of all schedules included in the Financial Statements which were deemed to accurately reflect the MN-S’ financial position
- MN-S’ increased investments to support post-secondary students.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council accepts as presented, the draft audited “Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc., Non-Consolidated Financial Statements” for the year ended March 31, 2021, including:

- The financial position as of March 31, 2021;
- The Statement of Operations for the year ended March 31, 2021, along with the notes appended thereto; and
- The Cash Flow Statement for the year ended March 31, 2021.

CARRIED (211115-05)

Two abstentions

9.2 Appointment of the Auditor for 2021-22

Related information (provided with the agenda): “Resolution to Appoint the Auditor for 2021-22”, labelled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution”

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)

WHEREAS section 5(a) of the *Bylaws of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc.* indicates that the Audited Financial Statements of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) Secretariat Inc. be provided to the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) and then placed before the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS the PMC has accepted the Audited Financial Statements of the MN-S Secretariat Inc. for the year ended March 31, 2021, completed by Virtus Group LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Virtus Group LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, be retained as the auditors of the MN-S Secretariat Inc. for the fiscal year 2021-2022, ending March 31, 2022.

CARRIED (211115-06)

One abstention

11:35 a.m.

Brian Heinrichs and Jane Zaleschuk, Virtus Group LLP left the meeting.

9.3 Fiscal Year Budget

Related information (provided with the agenda): Spreadsheet titled, “Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Budget 2021-22”, and related schedules

Hamid Shahzad, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the information included in the summary page of the spreadsheet.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- The surplus shown in the summary page of the spreadsheet, which can be attributed to impacts related to COVID-19 restrictions
- Information provided with the summary, outlining funding allocated to priority areas
- Funding the MN-S received during the previous year, which exceeded prior years’ funding.

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

WHEREAS the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan adheres to established financial standards and accounting policies for all funds received on behalf of the Métis citizens of Saskatchewan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Métis Council approves the draft operating budget for 2021-22 as presented, and recommends it be presented to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly for ratification.

CARRIED (211115-07)

One vote in opposition

One abstention (Robert LaFontaine)

9.4 Resolutions Not Considered at the Prior MNLA

An update was requested on the status of a resolution related to constitutional amendments, which was tabled at the February 20-21, 2021 MNLA.

Dorothy Myo, Senior Director of Policy and Research, reported on the resolutions tabled at the February 20-21, 2021 MNLA:

- Some of the tabled resolutions were now redundant (e.g. pertaining to past events)
- Ten of the tabled resolutions will be presented at the November 27-28, 2021 MNLA.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- A resolution being presented for consideration at the November 27-28, 2021 MNLA (which was tabled at the prior MNLA) that would eliminate the Secretary and Treasurer positions, to correspond with the MN-S' transition to a government structure
- Ratification required at a General Assembly of constitutional amendments approved at a MNLA.

10. RESOLUTIONS

10.1 Revised Ministerial Appointments

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft "Resolution Approving Ministerial Portfolio Reassignments", labelled "For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution"

It was MOVED (Laura Burnouf) and SECONDED (Brent Digness)

WHEREAS Articles 2.4 and 4.4(b) of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan* (MN-S) (the "*Constitution*") confers upon the President the sole 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 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;

WHEREAS on November 15, 2021, President McCallum directed that Ministerial portfolios be reassigned, effective that same date and until such time as the PMC confirms 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 McCallum on November 15, 2021:

- Environment - Minister Michelle LeClair (Vice President)
- Veterans - Minister Mervin "Tex" Bouvier
- Youth - Minister Autumn LaRose-Smith.

CARRIED (211115-08)

One vote in opposition (Wendy Gervais)

One abstention (Autumn LaRose-Smith)

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at approximately 1:40 p.m.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

13.4 Human Resources Committee

It was MOVED (Glen McCallum) and SECONDED (Billy Kennedy)

WHEREAS section 8.1 of the *Handbook for Executives, Ministers and Members of the Provincial Métis Council* (the “*Executive Handbook*”) states that the President will make recommendations to the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) for approval as to who sits on Standing Committees;

WHEREAS the *Executive Handbook* recognizes the Human Resources Committee as a standing committee of the PMC;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC approves the following appointments to the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan’s Human Resources Committee:

- Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region 3
- Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3
- Michelle LeClair, Vice President
- Kathie Pruden Nansel, Western Region 2A
- Tim Roussin, Eastern Region 2A.

CARRIED (211115-09)

10.2 Ministerial Salaries

Related information: “Resolution Fixing Provincial Métis Council Compensation Structure”, labelled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution”

During discussion on the resolution presented for consideration, comments were offered on:

- Utilizing governance funding to support the compensation structure
- Appropriately compensating the MN-S elected leaders who make decisions affecting the rights and interests of the MN-S and its citizens
- An expectation that PMC members who are portfolio-holders, and who assume associated ministerial responsibilities, do not hold outside employment
- The understanding that the new compensation structure would take effect upon the PMC’s approval.

Meeting Recessed

The meeting recessed at 2:45 p.m. and reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

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

WHEREAS the elected members of the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) form the Cabinet of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) government and make decisions affecting the rights and interests of the MN-S and its citizens;

WHEREAS it is desirable for members of the PMC to devote their time, energy and focus entirely on the betterment of the MN-S;

WHEREAS it is desirable that members of the PMC be compensated fairly for their devotion, time and efforts in furthering the best interests of the MN-S;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that members of the PMC at this duly convened meeting of November 15, 2021, do hereby direct that all members of the PMC who accept portfolios and who assume associated ministerial responsibilities are expected to devote themselves entirely to the pursuits of the MN-S and are prohibited from holding outside employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that subject to the aforementioned condition, members of the PMC do hereby approve of the following compensation structure for PMC members holding ministerial portfolios:

- A. Except for the Vice-President and the President of the MN-S, members of the PMC with ministerial responsibilities shall be compensated \$151,921.00 annually, representing a \$51,253.00 increase from their current annual rate of compensation;
- B. The Vice-President shall be compensated \$184,867.00, representing a \$25,626.00 increase from their current annual rate of compensation; and
- C. The President shall be compensated \$199,511.00 annually, representing a \$25,626.00 increase from their current annual rate of compensation.

CARRIED (211115-10)

Six votes in opposition (including Wendy Gervais, Robert LaFontaine, Autumn LaRose-Smith and Lisa McCallum)

10.3 Establishing Travel Guidelines

Related information (provided with the agenda): “Resolution Approving the Establishment of Travel Guidelines”, labelled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution”

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

WHEREAS it is desirable that the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) establish parameters and guidelines for travel of elected officials and holding in-person meetings;

WHEREAS it is desirable that the MN-S establish a process for planning, budgeting and tracking travel of all elected officials;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MN-S Provincial Métis Council (PMC) does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer of the MN-S, or their designate, to establish a process and guidelines for travel of elected officials and holding in-person meetings ("Guidelines"); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforementioned Guidelines shall provide for inter alia:

- A. A requirement that elected officials submit quarterly budgets for travel; and
- B. A process and parameters for holding in-person meetings.

CARRIED (211115-11)

11. MN-S OWNED PROPERTIES

Related information (provided with the agenda): Briefing Note titled, “Overview of Properties Owned by the MN-S”, dated November 10, 2021

Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer, reviewed the properties listed in the Briefing Note, which were purchased at the direction of the PMC and were held under the MN-S Secretariat Inc.

12. SUPPLEMENTARY COVID-19 SUPPORTS FOR UTILITIES

During discussion on the impacts of increased utility costs on citizens, comments were offered on:

- Emergency funding provided with the COVID-19 relief funding from the federal government
- A briefing note being prepared for the next PMC meeting, with information on how funding could be further allocated to support impacted citizens.

13.1 Regional Quarterly Funding

Regional Director Bouvier reported that he would seek further guidance from MN-S staff on activities (e.g. bookkeeping) that could be funded from the regional quarterly funding allocations.

13.2 Métis Women of Saskatchewan / Les Filles de Madeleine - Election Update

Tammy Mah, Les Filles de Madeleine, reported on the elections scheduled in September 2021, which did not proceed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- A recommendation submitted to the MNLA, that elections for the Métis Women of Saskatchewan / LFDM be included on the ballot for MN-S elections (for three-year terms)
- The recommendation passed by Les Filles de Madeleine (LFDM) Board of Directors’ to hold elections in May 2022
- Budgeting for the financial impacts of the MWS election processes; the final cost of the PMYC elections will be reviewed before the cost for the MWS election can be estimated
- Funding allocated to the LFDM to maintain an office and two staff members.

Request for Action (RFA-211115-01)

It was requested that the President, Les Filles de Madeleine (LFDM), provide for review at the next Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting, an update report that includes the following:

- *Budget documents indicating how funds allocated to the LFDM have been utilized (including funding previously provided to the LFDM to support the September 2021 election);*
- *Clarification on the role of the LFDM and its relationship with the PMC;*
- *Further information on the upcoming election process, including the proposed election date;*
- *The LFDM Constitution and Bylaws document; and*
- *The Minutes of the April 10, 2021, LFDM Secretariat Inc. Board of Directors (referenced at the August 17, 2021, PMC Meeting).*

13.3 Provincial Secretary's Workplan

Related information (displayed):

- "MN-S Provincial Secretary Workplan Budget, January 2021"
- "MN-S Secretary Portfolio Workplan 2019-2020"

Secretary McCallum reviewed activities listed in the MN-S Secretary Portfolio Workplan (the "Workplan"), and offered additional comments on:

- Considering the roles of Regional Directors and Locals in the Constitutional Reform process
- Discussions with Vice President LeClair regarding opportunities to enhance Local governments
- Encouraging citizens to register with the MN-S and to access MN-S programs and services
- Activities and roles of the Secretary indicated in the *Handbook for Executives, Ministers and Members of the Provincial Métis Council*.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- A suggestion to consider developing a Local Act or Local Constitution, potentially as part of the Constitutional Reform process
- Education and outreach activities proposed to support citizen's involvement in Locals
- Clarification needed on some of the activities referenced in the Workplan, which may overlap with the roles and activities of Legislative Services and other processes
- The proposed budget to support the Workplan, which has not been approved
- The importance of PMC Executives (and other PMC members) consulting with Regional Directors prior to attending meetings in their respective regions; an invitation needs to be extended to Regional Directors to participate in those meetings.

Secretary McCallum confirmed that she would seek further consideration of the Workplan with MN-S staff and the Vice President, and would work towards drafting a three-month plan that could potentially coincide with the MN-S' Constitutional Reform process.

13.7 Reaching Home Funding - Support from the PMC

Regional Director McLennan reported that an application was submitted for Reaching Home Funding to support two safe houses, which prompted a request for a letter of support from the PMC.

During discussion, Regional Director McLennan agreed to communicate directly with the Chief Executive Officer and the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, regarding this matter.

13.5 Judicial Committee

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled for consideration at a future PMC meeting.

5:00 p.m. (approximately)

Lisa McCallum left the meeting.

13.6 COVID-19 Task Force

An update was requested on the PMC's September 21, 2021 Resolution #210921-08, which directed that a new COVID-19 Task Force be established.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- The prior establishment of a COVID-19 Task Team, which included expert advisors who assisted in decisions on the allocation of COVID-19 supports and funding
- A report being prepared outlining how the MN-S' COVID-19 funding was allocated
- Requesting the Mover (Leonard Montgrand) and Seconder (Lisa McCallum) of Resolution #210921-08 to rescind the resolution, at a PMC meeting when they are both present.

13.8 Regional Matters

Regional Director Friesen acknowledged that a complaint would be filed with the Human Resources Committee related to regional interferences, in response to concerns raised.

14. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting concluded with a Closing Prayer offered by Laura Burnouf.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen)

That the November 15, 2021, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council meeting, now conclude.

CARRIED (211115-12)

(Time: 5:15 p.m.)

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LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were provided or considered at the November 15, 2021 PMC meeting:

1. Draft Agenda for the November 15, 2021, MN-S PMC Regular Meeting
2. Draft Minutes of the October 19, 2021, MN-S PMC Regular Meeting
3. MN-S Secretariat Inc., Non-Consolidated Financial Statements, March 31, 2021
4. Resolution to Accept the Audited Financial Statement, 2020-2021
5. Resolution to Appoint the Auditor for 2021-22
6. Spreadsheet titled, "Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Budget 2021-22"
7. Resolution Approving Ministerial Portfolio Reassignments
8. Resolution Fixing Provincial Métis Council Compensation Structure
9. Resolution Approving the Establishment of Travel Guidelines
10. Briefing Note titled, "Overview of Properties Owned by the MN-S", dated November 10, 2021
11. "MN-S Provincial Secretary Workplan Budget, January 2021"
12. "MN-S Secretary Portfolio Workplan 2019-2020"

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

LFDM	Les Filles de Madeleine
MNLA	Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
MN-S	Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
MWS	Métis Women of Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council
PMYC	Provincial Métis Youth Council
SMEDCO	SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation