



**MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

scheduled July 31, 2016

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Annual General Assembly scheduled July 31, 2016 in the Meeting Room, at the Gallagher Centre, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, prepared by Carrie Peacock, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

WELCOME – JULY 31, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Kathy Hodgson-Smith, Chairperson, welcomed Elders, veterans, delegates and others to the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Annual General Assembly at approximately 1:00 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was MOVED (Sherry McLennan) and SECONDED (Peter White)

That the Agenda for the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Annual General Assembly scheduled July 31, 2016 be adopted as follows:

1. Ratification of the July 30, 2016 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Resolutions
2. Financial Reporting
3. Lebret Farm
4. Membership, Voting and the Election
5. Non-Participation of Delegates at the Annual General Assembly
6. Open Forum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGA16-01)

Delegates requested an opportunity to discuss the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan financial information with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Treasurer. The Assembly was informed that Treasurer Louis Gardiner was not present.

Mavis Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, confirmed that a detailed report from Ernst & Young LLP was provided to delegates at the time of registration. Delegates were encouraged to contact their respective Regional Directors for clarification on the information provided.

BUSINESS AGENDA – JULY 31, 2016

1. RATIFICATION OF THE JULY 30, 2016 MÉTIS NATION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

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

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Annual General Assembly, ratify the following three resolutions passed by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, on July 30, 2016:

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE *SASKATCHEWAN MÉTIS ELECTIONS ACT 2007*:

WHEREAS Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (the “Government of Canada”) agreed to provide funding to the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan as per the Funding Agreement (Agreement No: 1415-HQ-000097) entered into between the Government of Canada and the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, on April 1, 2014, as amended by:

- The undated Amending Agreement entered into between the Government of Canada and the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan,
- The May 1, 2016 Amending Agreement entered into between the Government of Canada and the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, and
- The June 2016 Amending Agreement entered into between the Government of Canada and the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (“Amending Agreement #3”)

(collectively, the “MN-S Agreement”);

AND WHEREAS as part of the MN-S Agreement, an “Expert Advisor” must be retained;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc. has contracted with Ernst & Young LLP pursuant to an engagement letter dated June 17, 2016 and has appointed Ernst & Young LLP as the Expert Advisor;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Ernst & Young LLP agree that amendment of the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act 2007* is a matter relevant to carrying out the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan’s obligations under the MN-S Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council amended the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act 2007* in accordance with the recommendations provided by the Expert Advisor, Ernst & Young LLP, attached hereto as “Schedule A”, on July 29, 2016;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Métis Nation Legislative Assembly ratify the amendments to the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act 2007* in accordance with the recommendations provided by the Expert Advisor, Ernst & Young LLP, as follows (and described in the attached “Schedule A”):

1. In section 1, delete the words “for the general election in 2007 and may be adapted to all subsequent elections”
2. In section 2, in the definition of “declaration of election”, delete the words “the general election in 2007 and any by-election after the general election in 2007” and substitute

the words "*a general election or by-election*"

3. In section 2, delete the term and definition for "*Independent Oversight Committee*"
4. In section 3, delete the words "*in 2007*" and the accompanying footnote
5. In section 28, delete subsection (2) and its heading and re-number subsection 28(1) as section 28
6. In section 92, delete subsection (3) and its heading, and re-number the remaining subsections in section 92 accordingly
7. In section 101, delete subsection (3) and its heading, and re-number the remaining subsections in section 101 accordingly
8. In subsection 107(1), add the words "Unless authorized otherwise by the Chief Electoral Officer," to the beginning of the sentence
9. In section 111, delete subsection (2) and its heading, and re-number the remaining subsections in section 111 accordingly
10. In section 116, delete subsection (3) and its heading, and re-number the remaining subsections in section 116 accordingly
11. In section 120, delete subsection (3) and its heading, and re-number the remaining subsections in section 120 accordingly
12. Add a new section 127.1 to say: "No person shall disturb the peace and good order at a polling station"
13. Add a new section 127.2 to say:
 - (1) *Any person who places or displays campaign material in or on any premises used as a polling station is guilty of an offence, and*
 - (2) *Any person who uses, wears or displays or causes to be used, worn or displayed, any flag, ribbon, label, badge, or similar object in a polling station as campaign material, is guilty of an offence*
14. In Form 1 (VOTER REGISTRATION FORM) of the Schedule, delete the words "*in 2007*" and substitute the words "*to be held on [election day]*".

2. CALLING OF ELECTION:

WHEREAS Article 28 of the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act 2007*, as amended, and Article 8(2) of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* requires that the election day for the Executive and Regional Representatives of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council be held within four (4) years of the previous election;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council has retained, pursuant to the advice of Ernst & Young LLP as Expert Advisor, the expertise of Lorne Gibson, Election Consultant, to advise on the process required to ensure the running of an election pursuant to the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act 2007*, as amended;

AND WHEREAS Ernst & Young LLP and Mr. Gibson have advised the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council on the proper timing for the holding of an election and have recommended an election day of February 4, 2017;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council seeks to have an election that is in accordance with Article 1 of the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act 2007*, as amended, that promotes the meaningful exercise of the democratic rights and freedoms of the Métis citizens in Saskatchewan;

AND WHEREAS on July 29, 2016 the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council set an election day for the Executive and Regional Representatives of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council as February 4, 2017;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Métis Nation Legislative Assembly ratify the decision of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council to set an election day for the Executive and Regional Representatives of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council as February 4, 2017.

3. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER:

WHEREAS Section 92 of the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act 2007*, as amended, directs the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Métis Nation Legislative Assembly to appoint by resolution a Chief Electoral Officer for the election set for February 4, 2017;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council recommends the appointment of Fred Payton to serve as the Chief Electoral Officer for the election set for February 4, 2017;

AND WHEREAS on July 29, 2016 the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council recommended the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Métis Nation Legislative Assembly appoint Fred Payton to serve as the Chief Electoral Officer for the election set for February 4, 2017;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Métis Nation Legislative Assembly ratify the appointment of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council of Fred Payton, to serve as the Chief Electoral Officer for the election set for February 4, 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGA16-02)

AGENDA VARIED

It was MOVED (Maryann Warren) and SECONDED

That the Agenda for the July 31, 2016 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Annual General Assembly be amended to consider Item 3 – Lebret Farm prior to Item 2 – Financial Reporting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGA16-03)

3. LEBRET FARM

Mrs. Chris Perry requested information regarding her family's farm in Lebret (Eastern District #3), and its diminished size. The appropriate Regional Director will follow up with Mrs. Perry regarding her concerns.

AGENDA RESUMED

The order of the Agenda resumed, with consideration of Item 2 – Financial Reporting.

2. FINANCIAL REPORTING

During discussion, delegates offered comments regarding:

- A lack of financial information provided by the Treasurer of Métis Nation – Saskatchewan at the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly

- The absence of Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Executive Members at the Annual General Assembly
- Accountability required for funding received from government
- Reports that were not considered at the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, as it concluded earlier than scheduled.

Delegates further suggested:

- Job descriptions be considered for each Executive member at the next Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
- Delegates be paid on the last day of future Annual General Assemblies to encourage improved attendance
- Fundraising be considered to cover the cost of a forensic audit of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Executive and affiliated organizations.

It was MOVED (Sherry McLennan) and SECONDED (Karen Larocque)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Annual General Assembly, requests that a forensic audit be pursued of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Executive and the following affiliates, for the past four years, to determine how the funding received by the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan was disbursed:

- BTB Festival Days Inc.
- BTB Land Management Inc.
- Provincial Métis Holdco Inc.
- Provincial Métis Housing Corporation
- Round Prairie Ventures Inc.
- Round Prairie Developments Ltd.
- The Métis Society of Saskatchewan Inc.

CARRIED (AGA16-04)

(Nine delegates voted in opposition)

(Six delegates abstained from the vote)

4. MEMBERSHIP, VOTING AND THE ELECTION

During discussion, delegates offered comments regarding:

- The process for determining eligibility to vote in the February 4, 2017 election
- Access to funding for locals to hold meetings prior to the election
- The role of the Chief Electoral Officer in preparing for the February 4, 2017 election.

It was MOVED (Jeannette McGillis) and SECONDED (Reenna Sinclair)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Annual General Assembly, requests that funding be made available to Regions to meet and prepare for the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Regional Elections.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Chairperson Hodgson-Smith welcomed Regional Directors in attendance, Helene Johnson, Billy Kennedy, Glen McCallum, Darlene McKay, and Tammy Mah to sit at the front of the Assembly Hall to respond to questions. The Regional Directors confirmed that:

- The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Election Committee will work collaboratively with the newly appointed Chief Electoral Officer to develop the election process
- Regional Directors could review the information items contained in the Métis Nation Legislative

Duly adopted by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly on February 18, 2017

Assembly Agenda binders, at their upcoming Regional meetings

- Further details related to the election (i.e. determining voting eligibility, advance polling, ballot box locations, etc.) will be considered by the Chief Electoral Officer.

It was MOVED (Monelle Bailey) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Annual General Assembly, direct that elections officials involved in the February 4, 2017 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan election and/or working at the polling stations, be provided appropriate training of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan’s voting protocol.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGA16-05)

HEALTH BREAK

The meeting recessed at 2:35 p.m. and resumed at 3:00 p.m.

In response to questions raised, Richard Quintal, Negotiator and Manager of Métis Relations, Ministry of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, acknowledged funding provided to the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, which supported:

- Provincial Métis Council meetings to consider financial and other aspects of the organization
- Preparations to advance the organization towards a Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and subsequent election (based on the 2007 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan election process).

5. NON-PARTICIPATION OF DELEGATES AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No additional information or comments were provided.

6. OPEN FORUM

No additional information or comments were provided.

CONCLUSION

It was MOVED (Morley Norton) and SECONDED (Bob Pocha)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Annual General Assembly scheduled July 31, 2016, now conclude.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (AGA16-06)

(Time: 3:10 p.m.)

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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

The following item was referenced at the Annual General Assembly:

1. Schedule A: Amendments to the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act (2007)*