



**MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

held April 15, 2018

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) General Assembly held April 15, 2018, at Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth Street West, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, prepared by Carrie Peacock, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

WELCOME – APRIL 15, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Speakers Will Goodon and Frances Chartrand welcomed Elders, Veterans, delegates, citizens and others to the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan General Assembly at approximately 9:10 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Elder Norman Fleury offered an Opening Prayer.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

During discussion on the agenda, it was confirmed that General Assemblies considered amendments to *The Constitution of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan*, not amendments to the *Elections Act*.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Fred Kenny)

That the Agenda for the April 15, 2018 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan General Assembly be adopted as follows:

- Opening Prayer
- Open Forum
- Closing Prayer.

CARRIED (GA18-01)

BUSINESS AGENDA – APRIL 15, 2018

1. OPEN FORUM

During an Open Forum discussion, attendees offered comments on:

- The April 14, 2018 request from the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) for documentation and correspondence related to the resignation of the former Treasurer:
 - Resolutions were passed on April 14, 2018 regarding the Treasurer's position
 - Legal counsel advised against releasing the documentation and correspondence, for privacy reasons

- Clarification needed on how funding anticipated by the MN-S will be allocated
- Infrastructure needed to help the Métis people progress as a nation
- Clarification on whether changes made at the MNLA to the *Election Act* need to be ratified at the General Assembly:
 - The purpose of the General Assembly, as indicated in Article 11 of *The Constitution*:
 - (1) A General Assembly, composed of members from the Locals, shall be convened by the MNLA every year
 - (2) The General Assembly shall provide a forum whereby the members of the organization will receive information, review documents and provide guidance to the MNLA, and discuss, clarify, amend, vote on and ratify amendments to the Constitution
- General Assembly procedures and protocol:
 - The two microphones posted in the middle of the Assembly Hall, were equally accessible to all Métis citizens present
- The *Citizenship Act* indicates that a Registrar should be appointed by the MNLA to administer the Central Registry
- Maintaining courteous and respectful conduct throughout MNLAs and Governing Assemblies.

Meeting Recessed

The meeting recessed at 9:45 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

It was MOVED (Brian Lee) and SECONDED (Denny Brooks)

That the following resolution be referred to the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, Provincial Métis Council, to review for consideration at the next Métis Nation Legislative Assembly:

“**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) has established a Constitution and Legislation; and at the present time there does not exist a means to enforce any and all matters of non-compliance;

WHEREAS the MN-S Forum Building Report does recommend the creation of a Métis Judicial Court for the MN-S;

WHEREAS the Harry Daniels case was decided with a unanimous decision of the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) on April 14, 2016; the SCC ruled that Métis are “Indian” (Aboriginal) people within the legislative jurisdiction of the federal government. The term “Indians” under section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* now embraces all Aboriginal people.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MN-S shall establish an independent Métis Judicial Court that will deal with all matters of non-compliance, specifically related to the MN-S Constitution and Legislation. The Métis Judicial Court shall be comprised of five Métis persons that hold a current CPIC. The Métis Judicial Court will consist of a tribunal to hear and decide matters of non-compliance. The Métis Judicial Court will include two alternates. The five persons shall have had a career in law enforcement in the Province of Saskatchewan. Upon a simple majority vote in favour of this resolution by MNLA delegates, and a simple majority vote to ratify the Métis assembled at the General Assembly that follows the MNLA, the independent Métis Judicial Court shall be established and put in place, with the Tribunal to convene June 1, 2018. The Tribunal shall convene to hear all matters of non-compliance presented by any Métis person(s). The Tribunal shall be

empowered to order monetary penalty (not to exceed \$2,000.00 as an award to the court) and/or suspension of individual persons that comprise the 18-member Provincial Métis Council and/or the MN-S Local President and/or Vice President. (The Tribunal hearings shall convene June 1 and December 1 of each year.)”

CARRIED GA18-02

The Open Forum discussion continued, and comments were offered on:

- The importance of maintaining clear communications:
 - It would be helpful if financial statements and other information presented at future MNLAs, could be available 15 days in advance, to provide more time for review
 - The process for appointing the Interim Treasurer, may be unclear to some attendees
- An amendment made on April 14, 2018 to the *Constitution*, which may require the General Assembly’s consideration of a constitutional amendment:
 - Constitutional amendments are initiated at the MNLA, and then ratified by the General Assembly
- Potentially convening an Assembly, when MN-S receives the funding it anticipates, to learn how the money will be distributed
- Respecting the credibility of the citizens elected to their positions
- Benefits of hearing Métis people speaking in their traditional language
- Allowing the new MN-S Executive to continue to do their work; after nine months, the Federal Government is now sitting down with them; discussions are needed to work towards reconciliation
- The structure of many organizations (i.e. GDI) in which the Board sets policies, while the day-to-day operations are the sole responsibility of the CEO and staff
- GDI’s contract with Federal Government for Urban Programming for Aboriginal Peoples (UPIP), which recently expired; a new model for administering the program will be developed
- The importance of demonstrating and teaching respectfulness.

CLOSING COMMENTS

MN-S President McCallum extended thanks to the Dumont Scouts, the MN-S Staff, Prairieland Park Staff, Speakers and others. He recognized the voices of the Métis citizens, noting that the elected members had worked hard on the business required.

CONCLUSION and CLOSING PRAYER

Thanks were extended to attendees for their participation at the Assembly. Elder Norman Fleury offered a Closing Prayer.

It was MOVED (Jaycee Bell) and SECONDED (Derek Langan)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, General Assembly held April 15, 2018, now conclude.

CARRIED (GA18-03)

(Time: 11:30 a.m.)

* * * * *