



MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
MÉTIS NATION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
held May 27-28, 2023

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Métis Nation Legislative Assembly held May 27-28, 2023, at Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth Street West, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, prepared by Carrie Peacock, Recording Secretary.

DAY 1 – MAY 27, 2023

GRAND ENTRY and CALL TO ORDER

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S), Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) commenced at approximately 9:15 a.m. with a Grand Entry procession led by Métis Veterans and others, carrying the flags of Canada, the Métis Nation, and the Province of Saskatchewan.

OPENING PRAYERS

Elder Norman Fleury and Elder Emile Janvier offered Opening Prayers.

ANTHEMS

Loretta King, Western Region 1, sang the “Métis National Anthem” and “O Canada”.

GREETINGS

Autumn Laing-LaRose, President, Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC)

PMYC President Laing-LaRose commended the increased interest of Métis youth, which was demonstrated at the May 4, 2023, Youth Conference on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Cassidy Caron, President, Métis National Council (MNC)

In a pre-recorded video message, MNC President Caron recognized the advancements made by the Métis Nation, including towards self-government and a prosperous future. She commended the MN-S leaders and staff for their ongoing dedication to addressing the challenges facing Métis citizens.

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

Glen McCallum, President, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

President McCallum expressed gratitude for the Opening Prayers and commended the increased interest and involvement of young people in the MN-S government.

He acknowledged the importance of being respectful of all people and hearing the diverse voices of citizens from all MN-S Regions. The Provincial Métis Council (PMC) convened regularly, guided by Elders and Veterans, and discussed a range of issues, including citizens’ ideas. He emphasized the important relationship between government and citizens and the need for effective communication.

Some of the MN-S' achievements were reviewed, including the First Time Homebuyers Program and emergency supports for wildfire evacuees. Priorities such as education, economic development, and preserving Métis history, including advocating for the North West Land Claim, were also referenced. The recent renewal of the agreement between the MN-S and the Government of Canada promoted strengthened collaboration and affirmed commitments to progress and a promising future.

BUSINESS AGENDA – MAY 27, 2023

AGENDA VARIED

The order of the Agenda was varied during the Assembly. Items are presented in these minutes in the order in which they were considered.

1. ROLL CALL OF REGISTERED DELEGATES

Richard Quintal, Clerk of the MNLA, conducted a roll call and confirmed a total of 89 registered voting Delegates in attendance¹.

Health Break

The assembly recessed at 10:20 a.m. and reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

2. MNLA RESOLUTIONS

2.1 Adoption of the Rules of the House

The Assembly discussed maintaining the tradition of starting and ending MNLAs with prayers.

It was MOVED (Glen McCallum) and SECONDED (Michelle LeClair)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) possesses the authority to enact rules governing its own procedures;

WHEREAS it is desirable that the MNLA has rules in place governing the conduct of its own procedures, and there are currently no such rules in place;

WHEREAS the MNLA passed Resolution #MNLA211128-08 directing the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan government to prepare written rules and procedures governing the conduct of MNLAs, to be brought back to the MNLA for approval; and

WHEREAS it is appropriate that the MNLA adopt such rules, with the understanding that the rules are evergreen in nature and will evolve over time;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNLA hereby approve the rules and procedures, appended hereto as “Appendix A” (the “Rules of the House”), as the rules and procedures will apply henceforth for all MNLAs.

CARRIED (MNLA230527-01)

68 Delegates voted in favour

22 Delegates voted in opposition

2 Delegate abstained from the vote

¹ See attached “List of Registered Voting Delegates”

2.2 Appointing the Speaker and Deputy Speaker

It was MOVED (Michelle LeClair) and SECONDED (Glen McCallum)

WHEREAS Article 5 of the *Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly Act* (the *Act*) directs the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) to appoint a Speaker and Deputy Speaker for the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA);

WHEREAS the MN-S PMC, at their duly called meeting on January 17, 2023, resolved that the 2023 Spring MNLA would be held on May 26-28, 2023; and

WHEREAS the PMC, at their duly called meeting on January 17, 2023, recommended the appointments of John Lagimodiere as Speaker and Merelda Fiddler-Potter as Deputy Speaker for the MNLA for a two-year term beginning in the Spring of 2023, with the option of a one-year extension;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNLA now ratify the appointments of John Lagimodiere as Speaker and Merelda Fiddler-Potter as Deputy Speaker for the MNLA for a two-year term with the option of a one-year extension.

CARRIED (MNLA230527-02)

82 Delegates voted in favour

5 Delegates voted in opposition

0 Delegates abstained from the vote

ROLL CALL

The Clerk of the MNLA conducted a roll call and confirmed a total of 93 Delegates in attendance.

2.3 Appointing the Minute Taker

It was MOVED (Loretta King) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) hereby appoints Carrie Peacock as the official Minute Taker for the May 27-28, 2023 MNLA.

CARRIED (MNLA230527-03)

86 Delegates voted in favour

0 Delegates voted in opposition

0 Delegates abstained from the vote

2.4 Order of the Day (Adoption of the Agenda)

It was noted that the appointment of Dumont's Scouts was excluded from the agenda, as they were unable to attend. Alternates may be appointed for future MNLAs.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Leonard Montgrand)

WHEREAS the Provincial Métis Council (PMC), at their duly held meeting on January 17, 2023, resolved that a Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) would be called for May 26-28, 2023;

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 is hereby proposed for the MN-S MNLA to be held on May 27-28, 2023;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNLA hereby adopts the following agenda for the May 27-28, 2023 MNLA:

DIALOGUE FORUMS – May 26, 2023

DAY ONE – May 27, 2023

- Grand Entry:
 - o Fiddler – Dean Smith
 - o Opening Prayer – Elder Norman Fleury
 - o Métis Anthem – Loretta King, Western Region 1
 - o O Canada – Loretta King, Western Region 1
- State of the Nation Address – Glen McCallum, President
- Greetings:
 - o Cassidy Caron, President, Métis National Council
 - o Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations
 - o Federal Representative
 - o Provincial Representative
 - o Mayor of the City of Saskatoon
- Roll Call of Registered Voting Delegates – Richard Quintal, Clerk of the MNLA
- MNLA Resolutions:
 - o Adoption of the Rules of the House
 - o Appointing the Speaker and Deputy Speaker
 - o Appointing the Minute Taker
 - o Order of the Day (Adoption of the Agenda)
 - o Acceptance of New and Dissolved Locals
- Review of the November 19-20, 2022 MNLA Minutes:
 - o Reading of the Record of Decisions
 - o Adoption of the Minutes
 - o Business Arising from the Minutes
- Legal and Legislation Panel – Update and Discussion:
 - o Michelle LeClair, Vice President
 - o Thomas Isaac, Cassels Brock and Blackwell LLP
- Budget for C-92 Consultations and Métis Child and Family Services Plan
- MN-S Operating Budget for 2023-2024
- Position Paper on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Commission for the Review of Locals - Update
- Adjournment and Closing Prayer

DAY TWO – May 28, 2023

- Opening Prayer
- Roll Call of Registered Voting Delegates – Richard Quintal, Clerk of the MNLA
- Chief Executive Officer's Report – Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer
- Technical Panel A: Ministries and Departments
 - o Health and Addictions
 - o Environment
 - o Education and Post-Secondary Education
 - o Language and Culture

- Technical Panel B: Ministries and Departments
 - o Women (MMIWG – Family Information Liaison Office) and Youth
 - o Housing
 - o Ma Faamii
 - o Early Learning and Childcare
- Motion to Accept Reports:
 - o Executive Reports
 - o Regional Representatives Reports
 - o Ministerial Reports
 - o Affiliate Reports
- Motions and Resolutions
- Conclusion and Closing Prayer.

CARRIED (MNLA230527-04)

*83 Delegates voted in favour
4 Delegate voted in opposition
2 Delegates abstained from the vote*

Health Break

Elder Louise Oelke offered a Meal Blessing. The MNLA recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk of the MNLA conducted a roll call and confirmed a total of 93 Delegates in attendance.

2.5 Acceptance of New and Dissolved Locals - Leask Local and Shell Lake Local

The Assembly reviewed a resolution to accept Leask Local and Shell Lake Local as “New Locals”. Discussion ensued on the process for reactivating “Inactive Locals” and fulfilling the documentation and reporting obligations outlined in the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan*.

Health Break

The assembly recessed at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 2:25 p.m.

2.5 Accepting New Locals - Leask Local and Shell Lake Local (Continued)

It was confirmed that the documents required to reactivate the “Inactive Locals”, Leask Local and Shell Lake Local, had been verified during the recess. With the Assembly’s consent, the Mover and Seconder withdrew the resolution to accept Leask Local and Shell Lake Local as “New Locals”.

Jennifer Gardiner, President, Leask Local and Jeanette Primeau, President, Shell Lake Local, were invited to participate as voting Delegates.

Agenda Varied

It was MOVED (Lisa McCallum) and SECONDED (Marg Friesen)

That the order of the agenda for the May 27-28, 2023 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly be amended to consider “Item 4. Legal and Legislation Panel – Update and Discussion” before “Item 3. Review of the November 19-20, 2022 MNLA Minutes”.

CARRIED (MNLA230527-05)

4. LEGAL AND LEGISLATION PANEL – Update and Discussion

Vice President LeClair acknowledged efforts to ensure the rights of Métis people were recognized and respected by all levels of government, including the rights of harvesters in the North. The recently renewed agreement with Canada confirmed the MN-S' vision for self-determination and the commitment to negotiate a constitutionally protected core governance treaty.

Vice President LeClair, Chris Gall, Senior Legal Counsel, and Thomas Isaac, Legal Counsel, Cassels Brock and Blackwell LLP, participated in a panel discussion and responded to questions on legal and legislative issues. Some of their responses are indicated below:

- On June 27, 2019, the MN-S and Canada signed the *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement*² (MGRSA).
- On February 24, 2023, the MN-S and Canada signed the *Métis Nation within Saskatchewan Self-government Recognition and Implementation Agreement*³ (the Agreement), which included updates to the 2019 MGRSA and an implementation process.
- The Province of Saskatchewan (the "Province") passed *The Saskatchewan First Act* in March 2023, despite opposition from the MN-S, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations and others; the MN-S is exploring options for moving forward.
- The Province's "Treaty and Aboriginal Rights for Hunting and Fishing Guide", does not recognize Métis rights in many areas; Métis hunters and harvesters have been appointed to the MN-S Harvesting Advisory Group to discuss hunting and harvesting in Saskatchewan.
- The federal government enacted the *UNDRIP Act*, which mandated the establishment of a National Action Plan to fulfill the goals of the UNDRIP; a separate action plan specific to the MN-S will be developed, focussed on implementing the UNDRIP for the MN-S.
- The Île-à-la-Crosse Residential School file is progressing; the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations is supportive of advancing toward a resolution.

During discussion, additional comments were offered on:

- Recent discussions with the Premier of Saskatchewan, which included potentially issuing the MN-S some big game tickets to allocate to Métis hunters; further details are pending
- On March 30, 2023, Pope Francis renounced the 550-year-old "Doctrine of Discovery".

3. REVIEW OF THE NOVEMBER 19-20, 2022 MNLA MINUTES

Secretary McCallum read aloud the resolutions in the November 19-20, 2022 MNLA minutes.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Loretta King)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) hereby adopts the Minutes of the November 19-20, 2022, MNLA, as presented on May 27, 2023.

CARRIED (MNLA230527-06)

75 Delegates voted in favour

1 Delegate voted in opposition

1 Delegate abstained from the vote

² [*"Metis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement, 2019"*](#)

³ [*"Métis Nation within Saskatchewan Self-government Recognition and Implementation Agreement, 2023"*](#)

5. BUDGET FOR C-92 CONSULTATIONS AND MÉTIS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PLAN

It was MOVED (Kathie-Pruden-Nansel) and SECONDED (Michelle LeClair)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan has a history that encompasses the exercise of its inherent right to self-determination, including self-government;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan has created, developed, and evolved the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) as a Métis Nation Government comprised of democratic institutions at the local, regional, and provincial levels to represent Métis Citizens within Saskatchewan;

WHEREAS the MN-S was awarded restricted funding through the Government of Canada’s distinctions-based Governance Engagement Mechanisms (GEMS) process to explore the potential of affirming the rights and jurisdiction of the MN-S over child and family services for Métis Citizens under *Bill C-92 - An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (Bill C-92)*;

WHEREAS it is important to engage and consult Métis Citizens to identify their needs, priorities, and values and ensure their lived experiences guide recommendations for the implementation of a Métis-distinct child and family service delivery system within Saskatchewan;

WHEREAS it is important to engage and consult practitioners, stakeholders and other affected parties to ensure their experiences guide recommendations for the implementation of a Métis-distinct child and family service delivery system within Saskatchewan; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Métis Council, at their duly held meeting on April 25, 2023, approved a proposed budget to engage within the obligations of the GEMS funding agreement and recommended ratification by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNLA approve the proposed budget for MN-S Consultations for *Bill C-92* in the amount of \$1.7 million, as awarded by the Federal Government and as detailed in “Appendix B - Proposed Budget”.

CARRIED (MNLA230527-07)

82 Delegates voted in favour

2 Delegates voted in opposition

1 Delegate abstained from the vote

6. MN-S OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2023-2024

Marg Friesen, Minister of Finance, acknowledged the recent MNLA Budget Review Workshops held and welcomed Delegates to contact the Finance Office if they had further questions.

During a presentation on the 2023-2024 Budget, comments were offered on:

- The PMC’s prior review of the budget and direction that it be presented to the MNLA
- Some of the MN-S’ recent and upcoming achievements and priorities, including:
 - o Constructing rental homes for citizens who were unable to access affordable housing
 - o Establishing Ma Faamii Service Centres to deliver services and programs to Métis citizens
 - o Providing access to funding to support housing and post-secondary education for citizens
- Other processes and agreements being pursued to ensure citizens were effectively supported.

Matt Vermette, Chief Operating Officer, and Zareen Jawaid, Director of Budgeting and Reporting, reviewed the 2023-2024 Budget Summary.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Providing the MN-S audited financial statements after the audit process was finished
- The MN-S' role in emergency management:
 - o An agreement was being pursued with the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to affirm the MN-S' role in emergency events
 - o Discussions with Public Safety Canada intended to affirm the MN-S' involvement in emergency management efforts (e.g. wildfires, flooding, etc.)
- The Métis Nation University Sponsorship Program, which was funded by the MN-S and administered by the Gabriel Dumont Institute
- Funding committed previously to each Local for meetings, which will be sent directly to Locals
- Opportunities for Locals to pursue additional funding (e.g., through the Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) fund and Saskatchewan's Community Initiatives fund)
- Funding secured for 76 youth to participate in the 2023 North American Indigenous Games.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Autumn Laing-LaRose)

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

WHEREAS the Provincial Métis Council approved the draft budget for 2023-2024 as presented on March 15, 2023, and recommended that it be presented to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) for ratification;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNLA approves the draft MN-S Budget for 2023-2024 as presented on May 27, 2023.

CARRIED (MNLA230527-08)

63 Delegates voted in favour

22 Delegates voted in opposition

0 Delegates abstained from the vote

It was MOVED (Mervin "Tex" Bouvier) and SECONDED (Wendy Gervais)

That the order of the agenda for the May 27-28, 2023 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly be amended, to move consideration of "Item 7. Position Paper on the *UNDRIP Act*" and "Item 8. Commission for the Review of Locals - Update", from May 27 to May 28, 2023.

CARRIED (MNLA230527-09)

Voting results were not announced

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The May 27-28, 2023 MN-S MNLA adjourned on May 27, 2023, at 5:45 p.m. after confirming that the Assembly would reconvene on May 28, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Elder Deborah Smith offered a Closing Prayer.

DAY 2 – MAY 28, 2023

OPENING PRAYERS AND CALL TO ORDER

The May 27-28, 2023 MN-S MNLA reconvened on May 28, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Elder Frank Natomagan offered an Opening Prayer.

7. POSITION PAPER ON THE *UNDRIP ACT*

The Assembly acknowledged the reference in the proposed resolution to the MN-S' position paper on the *UNDRIP Act* and discussed how *UNDRIP* could support the work of the MN-S.

It was MOVED (Michelle LeClair) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)

WHEREAS on June 21, 2021, the Government of Canada (Canada) enacted the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDRIP Act)*, which codifies Canada's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (*UNDRIP*);

WHEREAS "Kwayskahstahsoowin" is the Cree word for "Setting Things Right" ("Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk" in Michif and "Ĕta nidef Ĕta Ĕghĕdĕleda há" in Dĕnĕ) which the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) believes is the overarching approach that Canada must adopt in the implementation of the *UNDRIP Act*;

WHEREAS the *UNDRIP* is an international human rights document that reflects the "minimum standards" of Indigenous rights around the world;

WHEREAS in carrying out the *UNDRIP Act* and its commitments set out therein, Canada must consider the diversity of Indigenous peoples and, in particular, the diversity of the identities, cultures, languages, customs, practices, rights and legal traditions of the Métis and of their institutions and governance structures, their relationships to the land, and Indigenous knowledge;

WHEREAS the MN-S has made it clear that the Métis expect a relationship with Canada which reflects the exercise of inherent Métis rights and jurisdiction of the Métis as a self-governing people;

WHEREAS the MN-S has set out its position and expectations in the position paper titled "Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ĕta nidef Ĕta Ĕghĕdĕleda há", as it relates to self-government and the affirmation of jurisdictional areas;

WHEREAS the MN-S requires financial and technical capacity in order to further build and operate a Métis government that is able to deliver services, programs, and other supports to its Citizens such that its Citizens are able to enjoy the rights contained in *UNDRIP* and supported by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

WHEREAS the MN-S is best placed to determine its capacity needs given its proximity to, and its relationship with, its Citizens; and Canada's provision of funding must reflect the MN-S' input to ensure that current challenges around the chronic lack of capacity are eliminated; and

WHEREAS, in the words of Louis Riel, the Métis "will not allow even the Dominion of Canada to trample on our rights";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) calls on Canada to meaningfully implement the UNDRIP and the *UNDRIP Act* in a manner that is grounded in the rights of self-determination and the right to self-government of the MN-S; and that particular attention be paid to the rights and special needs of Métis women, 2SLGBTWQQIA+ people, Elders, youth, and persons with disabilities, in the implementation of this Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MNLA support the MN-S' Position Paper titled as "Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ĕta nideĭ Ĕta Ĕghĕdĕleda há" (attached as "Appendix C") to be submitted to Canada for inclusion in the National Action Plan on the UNDRIP, as a reflection of what UNDRIP means to the Métis of Saskatchewan on May 28, 2023.

CARRIED (MNLA230528-01)

83 Delegates voted in favour

7 Delegates voted in opposition

2 Delegates abstained from the vote

Health Break

The Assembly recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

8. COMMISSION FOR THE REVIEW OF LOCALS – Update

Michael Gatin, Commissioner for the Review of Locals (the "Commissioner"), referred to a presentation⁴ and acknowledged that recommendations resulting from the review process would be provided for consideration at the November 2023 MNLA.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Arranging engagements with Locals and others who had not yet been consulted and reaching citizens who were not connected to Locals
- Information posted at www.mnscommission.ca on how to participate in a "virtual" interview
- The Commissioner's final report, anticipated in August 2023, which would explain the methods used to gather and analyze the data that formed the report's recommendations.

9. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Richard Quintal acknowledged the MN-S' determination to enhance affordability for citizens and to promote economic prosperity for future generations. He highlighted the MN-S' efforts to provide language programs to immerse children in their heritage and to empower Locals to deliver citizen-focused programs.

Video Presentation

The video titled, "Île-à-la-Crosse Métis Residential School Documentary – Summary" was presented.⁵

The Assembly was informed of the PMC's prior direction to establish a Commission to document the history of Métis students in Saskatchewan in day schools, industrial schools and residential schools, to better understand their experiences. While the initial focus had been on the Île-à-la-Crosse Métis Residential School, the Commission's scope would include gathering stories from people who attended other schools, orphanages, nunneries, and mental institutions.

⁴ See the attached "List of Appendices" to locate the Commissioner's Report to the MNLA

⁵ [Video titled "Île-à-la-Crosse Métis Residential School Documentary – Summary"](#)

Health Break

Elder Max Morin provided a Meal Blessing. The MNLA recessed at 12:15 and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Hailey Marcot, Deputy Clerk of the MNLA and MN-S Intern, conducted a roll call and confirmed a total of 88 Delegates in attendance.

10. TECHNICAL PANEL A – Ministries and Departments⁶

Laurie Shea, Director of Mental Health and Addictions

Laurie Shea reviewed a presentation and offered information on:

- The Mobile Outreach Program, which provided immediate support to vulnerable citizens
- The Mental Health and Addictions Land-Based Healing Centre, which offered treatment for citizens struggling with mental health and addiction issues
- Transitional housing, intended to serve Métis women, children and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, fleeing domestic violence or completing addiction treatment.

Tanya Pruden, Director of Health

Tanya Pruden reviewed a presentation and offered information on:

- MN-S' health programs and services, including medical transportation, patient advocacy, patient support workers, nicotine replacement therapy and mental health program
- Ongoing health research and projects focussed on cancer prevention, tobacco control, etc.
- Completion of "Your Guide to Help You Understand Cancer and Heal", available to Métis citizens on a cancer journey.

Brent Laroque, Director of Environment

Brent Laroque reviewed a presentation and offered information on:

- The strategic goals and vision of the Ministry of Lands and Environment;
- The Ministry's work related to conservation and climate change
- Projects supported by citizens, including Indigenous Monitoring Training, and preparing emergency preparedness and energy efficiency kits.

Jenna Vandal, Ministry of Post-Secondary Education

Jenna Vandal provided information on:

- An agreement achieved with the GDI, enabling citizens in all regions to attend a post-secondary school of their choice
- The "This is Your Shot" scholarship program, which supported 80 students.

Kristy Ross, Ministry of Culture and Heritage

Kristy Ross reviewed a presentation and offered information on:

- Support for the Lii Bufloo Backpack Program
- UPIP funding for Regions and Locals, for delivering a range of programs and services
- Establishing the "Back to Batoche Committee" and the "National Indigenous Day Committee"
- Creating policies for sashing and gifting, with guidance from Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

⁶ See attached "List of Appendices" to locate presentations provided by Technical Panel A

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Updates anticipated at the next MNLA, related to K-12 education
- Students graduating from high school who may not be university-prepared
- Encouraging high school career councillors to promote trades
- The feasibility of the MN-S launching an Emergency Management FireSmart Program
- Providing MN-S materials in Dënë at future MNLAs, and providing access to interpreters
- Enabling Elders to remain in their community when they can no longer care for themselves
- Addressing community impacts of the opioid crisis; addiction training and supplies must be accessible (e.g., naloxone kits).

ROLL CALL

Zac Lumsnes, Deputy Clerk of the MNLA and MN-S Intern, conducted a roll call and confirmed a total of 89 Delegates in attendance.

12. MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS

It was MOVED (Loretta King) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly accepts as presented, the following reports: Executive, Regional Representatives, Ministerial and Affiliates.

CARRIED (MNLA230528-02)

79 Delegates voted in favour

3 Delegates voted in opposition

7 Delegate abstained from the vote

13. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

13.1 Resolution to Support Métis Harvesting

The Assembly was informed that youth and representatives from all regions, had been appointed to the Harvesting Advisory Group. Regional Directors would be notified of the appointments. Delegates were invited to direct queries on harvesting to the Director of Environment.

It was MOVED (Michelle LeClair) and SECONDED (Ryan Carriere)

WHEREAS the Métis are one of the Indigenous peoples who lived in the historic Northwest prior to Canada's westward expansion, and have developed shared customs, traditions, and collective identities rooted in kinship, their unique relationship to the land, and a distinct culture and way of life;

WHEREAS the Métis of Saskatchewan have established the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) as its government, mandated to advance Métis rights, self-government, and self-determination for the Métis of Saskatchewan, as well as to represent its Citizens through democratic governance structures;

WHEREAS the MN-S recognizes that harvesting of fish and game is integral to our Métis ways of living, being connected to the land, and strengthens and perpetuates Métis identity, culture, values, and traditions;

WHEREAS the MN-S recognizes that Métis subsistence harvesting is critical to the economic and nutritional needs of many Métis households;

WHEREAS in March 2023, the MN-S announced the reformation of the Harvesting Advisory Group, a thoughtfully assembled panel of knowledgeable fish and game harvesters from the north, central and southern regions of Saskatchewan, to provide meaningful insight, and direction to ensure Métis harvesting is grounded in our identity, culture, values, and traditions;

WHEREAS the MN-S has diligently engaged in ongoing negotiations with the Province of Saskatchewan to seek common ground on which to build a framework that provides a province-wide Métis sustenance harvesting agreement; and

WHEREAS the proposed province-wide Métis harvesting framework has been stalled by the Cabinet and Legislature of Saskatchewan since June 2019;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly calls upon the Province of Saskatchewan to complete the Agreement and Policy on Métis Sustenance Harvesting Rights in Saskatchewan and work towards implementation by the Fall of 2023.

CARRIED (MNLA230528-03)

89 Delegates voted in favour

0 Delegates voted in opposition

0 Delegates abstained from the vote

13.2 Resolution to Approve Local Governance Capacity

The Assembly discussed the delivery of programs and services to MN-S citizens through Ma Faamii Service Centres. It was confirmed that Locals could apply for other resources in addition to the funding provided by the MN-S.

It was MOVED (Marlene Hansen) and SECONDED (Kelly Kwan)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) has received governance capacity from the Federal Government;

WHEREAS the MN-S Locals are the basic unit of the MN-S governance structure representing the communities;

WHEREAS the MN-S Locals have limited fiscal capacity to carry out their duties and responsibilities in the preparation of self-government in a meaningful way; and

WHEREAS the MN-S has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that the MN-S Locals are adequately supported to carry out this important work at the community level in preparation for self-government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) instruct the Clerk of the MNLA to work with staff to present recommendations at the next meeting of the Assembly to address the following:

1. Explore what fiscal resources can be made available to the MN-S Locals to fulfill their governance responsibilities. This may include supporting the delivery of programs and services of community-level programming by Locals;
2. Education and training options for the MN-S Locals to increase capacity to operate and deliver services equal to the expectations of citizens; and

3. Examine potential funding models for the MN-S Locals considering such factors as citizenship numbers as well as the higher cost of operating in the North.

CARRIED (MNLA230528-04)

81 Delegates voted in favour

0 Delegates voted in opposition

0 Delegates abstained from the vote

13.3 Resolution for MN-S Registry Dialogue Forum

It was MOVED (Marlene Hansen) and SECONDED (Kelly Kwan)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) is responsible for determining eligibility for citizenship and for registering Métis citizens in Saskatchewan; and

WHEREAS Locals have questions regarding Registry processes and would like an update by the MN-S Registrar;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) directs the Clerk of the MNLA to hold a dialogue forum at the next Assembly to support a fulsome discussion on the MN-S Registry.

CARRIED (MNLA230528-05)

86 Delegates voted in favour

0 Delegates voted in opposition

0 Delegate abstained from the vote

11. TECHNICAL PANEL B – Housing, Ma Faamii Service Centres, ELCC, and Women and Youth⁷

Jason Mercredi, Director, Social Infrastructure

Jason Mercredi reviewed a presentation and commented on programs, including:

- The Emergency Repair Program, a one-time grant for eligible Métis citizens for critical repairs
- The First Time Home Buyers Program, for Métis citizens purchasing their first home
- The System Support Program, which connects vulnerable citizens with adequate housing
- The goal of the Reaching Home Program to reduce homelessness with federal funding
- Gathering information for potential models for delivering child and family services.

Andrea Fisk, Manager, Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC)

Andrea Fisk reviewed a presentation and commented on programs, including:

- The Child Care Subsidy, a child care grant accessible to Métis citizens
- The Accessibility Grant, which supports services for Métis children with unique needs
- The Christmas Gift Program, which Locals can access for children in their community
- The Community Enhancement Grant, which Locals can access for community programs.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- The distribution of Lii Bufloo backpacks to young children; funding for initiatives to support older children may be considered
- An updated list of “trusted contractors”, which was available through the MN-S office

⁷ See attached “List of Appendices” to locate presentations provided by Technical Panel B

- The feasibility of reviewing the Emergency Repair Program and requiring qualified inspections before and after completion of repairs; the ability to train people on home inspections and energy audits could be considered
- Inviting a representative from the SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation to present to the PMC and the MNLA on the economic development funds intended for Regions to develop their own economic development corporations
- Details pending on grant funding to purchase materials to improve traditional hunting cabins
- A suggestion to provide citizens with online access to recordings of the MN-S' monthly departmental update session.

CONCLUSION

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

That the May 27-28, 2023, Métis Nation Legislative Assembly now conclude.

CARRIED (MNLA230528-06)

Voting results were not announced

The May 27-28, 2023 MNLA concluded on May 28, 2023, at approximately 4:25 p.m. Thanks were extended to the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Delegates and others.

Elder Norman Fleury, Elder Emile Janvier, and Elder Louise Oelke concluded with Closing Prayers.

* * *

SIGNED AND CERTIFIED as a correct record of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) held May 27-28, 2023, by the duly appointed Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

ORIGINAL COPY SIGNED

John Lagimodiere, MNLA Speaker

ORIGINAL COPY SIGNED

Merelda Fiddler-Potter, MNLA Deputy Speaker

LIST OF APPENDICES

The following items are attached to these minutes:

Appendix A: The Rules of the House (referenced in Resolution #MNLA230527-01)

Appendix B: Proposed Budget (referenced in Resolution #MNLA230527-07)

Appendix C: MN-S Position Paper titled as “Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ęta nideł Ęta Ęghėdėleda há” (referenced in Resolution #MNLA230528-01)

Appendix D: List of Registered Voting Delegates

Appendix E: List of Information Items

Appendix F: List of Acronyms

APPENDIX A

**MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
MÉTIS NATION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

held May 27-28, 2023

“The Rules of the House”

Referenced in Resolution #MNLA230527-01

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PREAMBLE

WHEREAS it is desirable for the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly to adopt rules and procedures to provide clear and consistent guidance in its deliberations, built on Métis customs and traditions of respect, order and decorum;

Therefore, the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, in accordance with the authority granted to it by the Métis Nation Saskatchewan through its Constitution to pass resolutions, hereby adopts the following rules and procedures to guide its sittings:

GENERAL

Procedure in unprovided cases

1 Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, current edition, shall govern the Assembly in all procedural matters not otherwise covered by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Constitution, The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Act, 1999, or these Rules.

Attendance

2 Members may attend a sitting of the Assembly in person, via virtual means, or by telephone.

Publication of proceedings and documents

3(1) The official record of the proceedings of the Assembly consists of the Minutes as approved by the Assembly.

(2) The official documents of the Assembly shall be printed and published only under the authority of the Clerk of the Assembly in accordance with The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Act, 1999.

SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ratification of appointment

4(1) There is no debate of the motion to ratify the appointment of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

(2) If a motion to ratify fails, the Assembly shall adjourn for the period of time necessary to prepare an alternate motion.

Participation in debate

5 The Speaker and Deputy Speaker shall not take part in any debate before the Assembly.

Speaker's ruling

6 A member who disagrees with a ruling by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker may appeal the ruling to the Assembly as follows:

1. once recognized by the Speaker, the Member shall move a motion stating, "shall the ruling of the Speaker (or Deputy Speaker) be upheld";
2. the motion requires a seconder;
3. there is no debate on the motion;
4. the Speaker shall put the motion to a vote.

SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Ordinary time

7 The ordinary times for the daily meeting and adjournment of the Assembly is from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., with a recess approximately midway through each of the morning and afternoon.

Procedure at time of daily adjournment

8 At the time of daily adjournment, except as otherwise specified in these Rules or ordered by the Assembly, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings on any business under consideration and adjourn the Assembly without question put, provided that all business pending on the Order of the Day at the termination of the sitting on that day is tabled until the next day to be taken up at the same stage where its progress was interrupted.

Procedure at time of adjournment on the last day of a sitting

9 At the time of adjournment on the last day of a sitting of the Assembly, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and adjourn the Assembly without question put, provided that all business pending on the Order of the Day at the termination of the sitting on that day is tabled until the next sitting of the Assembly.

Lack of quorum

10(1) If at any time during a sitting there is not a quorum of 75 Members as required by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Constitution, the Speaker may take the chair and adjourn the Assembly until a later time in that sitting or to the next sitting, as the case may require, and all business pending on the Order of the Day is tabled until the adjourned date and time.

(2) Whenever the Speaker adjourns the Assembly for lack of a quorum, the time of the adjournment and the names of the Members then present shall be recorded in the Minutes.

Recess or adjournment

11(1) A motion that the Assembly recess or be adjourned may be moved without notice by any Member when a question is not under debate, in accordance with the following process:

1. once recognized by the Speaker, the Member shall move a motion to recess or adjourn for a specified period of time;
2. the motion requires a seconder;
3. there is no debate on the motion;
4. the Speaker shall put the motion to a vote.

(2) If a motion to recess or adjourn is defeated, no second motion to the same effect may be made until after some intermediate proceeding has taken place.

(3) The Speaker shall make an announcement five minutes before the expiry of a recess or adjournment to summon Members back to the Assembly.

BUSINESS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Prayers

12 An Elder selected by the Provincial Métis Council shall open and close each meeting of the Assembly with a prayer.

Precedence of business

13 All items included in the Order of the Day prepared as required pursuant to The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Act, 1999 shall be taken up in the order in which they are included.

Withdrawal of items of business

14(1) A Member may withdraw an item of business on the Order of the Day that is in the Member's own name when it is called, provided the item of business has not already been moved and seconded.

(2) Items of business that have been moved and seconded may be withdrawn only by unanimous consent of the Assembly upon the request of the Member who moved the motion.

Items of business postponed

15 Whenever an item of business before the Assembly is interrupted pursuant to a Rule or Order, unless otherwise provided, the proceeding postponed is to be taken up at the same stage where its progress was interrupted.

ORDER AND DECORUM

Speaker to preserve order and decorum

16 The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum in the Assembly and, when deciding questions of order, shall state the Rule or authority applicable to the decision.

Recognition by Speaker

17 No Member may speak until he or she obtains the recognition of the Speaker, and all Members shall address their remarks to the Speaker and to the merits of the motion under discussion.

Participation by non-members

18 Staff or consultants may be requested to be available to the Assembly to respond to questions or provide factual information.

Rules for decorum

19 Members shall maintain the decorum of the Assembly by observing the following rules:

- (a) smoking is not permitted;
- (b) mobile and cellular telephones, laptops, tablets and handheld computers, including personal digital assistants, may be used while the Assembly is sitting, provided they are operated silently and not used as a telephone, recording device, camera, or pager;
- (c) when the Speaker is in the Chair, each Member who is present in person must be in the Member's designated seat in order to take part in the proceedings;
- (d) Members shall refrain from loud private conversations.

Inappropriate language and actions

20 When a motion is under discussion, no Member shall:

- (a) interrupt the Member speaking except to raise a point of order or call attention to the lack of a quorum;
- (b) reflect on the absence of another Member;
- (c) reflect on the conduct of the Speaker or other presiding officer;
- (d) use offensive, provocative or threatening language;
- (e) involve the Speaker, any presiding officer, or officer of the Assembly in the debate;
- (f) censure, attack, make personal references, or impute the motives of any officer or employee of the Assembly;
- (g) persist in irrelevance or tedious repetition, either of his or her own arguments or of the arguments used by other Members;
- (h) excessively read extracts from documents, books, publications, and correspondence;
- (i) quote anything that if stated directly would be contrary to the Rules and practices of the Assembly; or
- (j) involve persons other than Members in the debate.

Disorder

21(1) The Speaker may, after providing two warnings, suspend any Member who persistently disregards the Speaker's authority to preserve order and decorum for the remainder of the sitting day and, if the Member refuses to leave the Assembly, shall direct Dumont's Scouts to escort the Member from the Assembly.

(2) In the case of grave disorder, the Speaker may recess the Assembly, without question put, to a time to be determined by the Speaker.

Observers

22 While the Assembly is sitting, any person other than a Member admitted to any part of the Assembly or gallery who causes disorder or does not withdraw when so ordered by the Speaker shall be taken into custody by Dumont's Scouts and expelled from the sitting.

RULES OF DEBATE

Member may only speak twice

23 A Member may only speak twice to a motion, unless responding to a question from another Member.

Time limits

24 A Member may only speak for two minutes at any time.

Documents cited

25 A Member who quotes any document in debate is required to provide the document to the Clerk to be distributed to all Member, if requested by any Member.

Points of order

26(1) A Member addressing the Assembly, if called to order either by the Speaker or on a point raised by another Member, shall cease speaking while the point of order is being stated, after which the Member may explain.

(2) Before the Speaker makes a decision with respect to the point of order the Speaker may permit other Members to speak to it, but such interventions must be strictly relevant to the point of order taken.

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Requirements for motions

27 The following rules apply to motions:

(a) every motion must be drafted in the form of a proposition such that, if adopted, it becomes either a resolution or Order of the Assembly;

(b) a motion may not be moved if it raises substantially the same question as one that has already been decided in the same sitting.

Motions not included in Order of the Day

28 A motion that is not included in the Order of the Day may not be introduced to the Assembly unless a motion to consider that it be dealt with is moved and seconded and is supported by two-thirds of those voting.

Moving a motion

29(1) A member who wishes to move a motion shall state the motion so that it can be reduced to writing and displayed on the screen in the Assembly.

(2) When a motion is seconded, the Speaker shall read the motion to the Assembly and open the motion to debate.

Amendments to motions

30(1) An amendment may be moved to any debatable motion to omit or insert words in the motion except as otherwise prohibited by the Rules.

(2) An amendment to omit all words is not in order.

(3) An amendment to an amendment is not in order.

(4) A motion to amend a main motion requires a seconder, is debatable and requires the support of a simple majority to pass.

(5) If a motion to amend is accepted by the Assembly, the debate then resumes on the main motion as amended and the main motion must ultimately be voted on.

Friendly amendments

31 A proposed amendment to a motion that is acceptable to the mover and the seconder can be incorporated into the motion without a formal amendment by the Assembly, and the written version of the motion displayed on the screen in the Assembly shall be revised accordingly.

Speaker's list

32 The Speaker shall maintain a list of the names of Members who have indicated they wish to speak to a motion and the list of names shall be displayed on the screen in the Assembly in the order in which they will be recognized.

Calling the question

33(1) A request to call the question is in effect a motion to close debate and can only be made as follows:

1. the Member must be recognized by the Speaker and move a motion to close debate;
2. the motion requires a seconder;
3. there is no debate on the motion;
4. the Speaker shall put the motion to a vote.

(2) A motion to close debate requires the support of two-thirds of those voting to pass.

(3) If a motion to close debate is accepted by the Assembly, the Speaker shall then put the motion in relation to which debate is now closed to a vote.

(4) If a motion to close debate is defeated, the debate continues.

Motions out of order

34 When the Speaker is of the opinion that a motion offered is contrary to the Rules and Privileges of the Legislative Assembly and therefore out of order, the Speaker shall inform the Assembly immediately, before putting the question, and quote the authority applicable to the case.

Debatable motions

35(1) Except as otherwise specified in these Rules, the following motions are debatable:

- (a) motions contained in the Order of the Day;
- (b) for the concurrence in a report submitted to the Assembly;
- (c) for the appointment of a committee;
- (d) for reference of a report or other documents to a committee or other body ;
- (e) for the suspension of any of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly;
- (f) any other motion that may be required for the observance of the proprieties of the Assembly, the maintenance of its authority, the appointment or conduct of its officers, the management of its business, the arrangement of its proceedings, the correctness of its records, the fixing of its sitting days, or the times of its meeting.

Non-debatable motions

36 All motions other than those described in section 34 shall be decided without debate or amendment.

SUSPENSION OR AMENDMENT OF RULES

Motion to suspend or amend

37 These rules can be suspended or amended at any time as follows:
by a motion of the Assembly identifying the rule to be suspended or amended

1. once recognized by the Speaker, the Member shall move a motion to suspend or amend a rule or rules as identified;
2. the motion requires a seconder;
3. the motion is debatable;
4. once debate has concluded or the question has been called in accordance with section 33, the Speaker shall put the motion to a vote.

APPENDIX B

MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
MÉTIS NATION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

held May 27-28, 2023

“Proposed Budget”

Referenced in Resolution #MNLA230527-07

MN-S GEM - Proposed Budget

Administration Expenses

Administration cost 158,963

Project Expenses

Conferences / Engagement Sessions 304,923

Printing 60,000

Professional Fees

Communications 20,000

Creative and Design 30,000

Citizen Engagement Support 47,200

Events Management 30,000

Consultants 170,000

Salaries, wages and benefits 391,661

Travel 535,847

Total Expenses 1,748,593

Admin Cost % as total other expenses 10%

APPENDIX C

MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
MÉTIS NATION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

held May 27-28, 2023

“Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ēta nidef Ēta Ĕghēdēleda há”

Referenced in Resolution # MNLA230528-01

***Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk – Michif / Kwayskahstahsoowin – Cree / Ēta
nidef Ēta Ĕghēdēleda há – Dēnē:***

Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (“MN-S”) and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (“UNDRIP”) Position Paper

On June 21, 2021, the Government of Canada (“Canada”) enacted the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (“**UNDRIP Act**”), which codifies Canada’s commitment to implement UNDRIP. In carrying out the *UNDRIP Act* and its commitments set out therein, “Canada must take into account the diversity of Indigenous peoples and, in particular, the diversity of the identities, cultures, languages, customs, practices, rights, and legal traditions of ... the Métis and of their institutions and governance structures, their relationships to the land and Indigenous knowledge.”¹

Métis elder Maria Campbell has noted that you cannot reconcile a relationship that never existed. Canada’s relationship with the MN-S has never been one between Nations as equals and a relationship where each party acknowledges the other as an equal is the only acceptable relationship between MN-S and Canada under UNDRIP.

There is no word in Michif, Cree or Dēnē for “reconciliation”. Instead, only *Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk – Michif, and Kwayskahstahsoowin – Michif and Cree*, which means “setting things right” and *Ēta nidef Ēta Ĕghēdēleda há – Dēnē*, which means “gathering to work together”. Canada’s implementation of UNDRIP, which reflects the “minimum standards” of Indigenous rights, in accordance with the *UNDRIP Act*, and its commitments set out therein (e.g., “consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples,” etc.), is **critical** to *Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ēta nidef Ēta Ĕghēdēleda há*.

MN-S asserts that Canada must commit meaningfully to a process of *Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ēta nidef Ēta Ĕghēdēleda há* if it is to demonstrate its enactment of the *UNDRIP Act* is more than box-ticking exercises or platitudes without commitments to real change and recognition. Canada must conduct itself in a manner that promotes clarity, forthrightness, honesty, and predictability for all parties involved.

Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk – Michif / Kwayskahstahsoowin – Cree / Ēta nidef Ēta Ĕghēdēleda há - Dēnē in Relation to UNDRIP

Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ēta nidef Ēta Ĕghēdēleda há is a process that must flow from the constitutionally protected rights under Section 35. To “set things right” is to reach a mutual and respectful understanding among peoples.

¹ UNDRIP Act, Preamble.

**Métis Nation – Saskatchewan UNDRIP Position Paper
Draft February 14, 2023**

Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ĕta nideĭ Ĕta Ĕghĕdĕleda há requires Canada to rectify its historical wrongs against Métis and Indigenous peoples.

Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ĕta nideĭ Ĕta Ĕghĕdĕleda há is a long-term and ongoing relationship. It requires more than token gestures, platitudes, and lip service. Its advancement cannot be limited to a single commitment, court order, or decision. Instead, *Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ĕta nideĭ Ĕta Ĕghĕdĕleda há* must be grounded in practical actions undertaken in a manner that promotes clarity, forthrightness, honesty, and predictability for all parties involved.

Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ĕta nideĭ Ĕta Ĕghĕdĕleda há requires sustained, ongoing action. Time after time, Canada has been called on to take meaningful action to set things right. Doing so requires meaningful and thoughtful implementation, by the whole of government, of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and transformative legal and social changes called for by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. These reports can no longer languish on the shelves; they must be brought to life in a way that fulfils the purpose of *Kwaayesh aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ĕta nideĭ Ĕta Ĕghĕdĕleda há*.

The Métis Nation within Saskatchewan

The Métis are the *Tipaymishooyaahk – Michif / Otipemisiwak – Cree* or the People ‘who own themselves’. In Dĕnĕ, this is *Ĕdĕ ts’ĕn K’oidĕ* or “We have authority.” According to our oral historians and knowledge keepers, this name was given to the Métis by the Cree people as those who are in charge of themselves. The Métis have always been their own people, emerging in the historic North-West during the 18th and 19th centuries, possessing their own collective culture, customs, identity, institutions, laws, legal orders, multilingualism, national symbols, self-government, way of life, and relationships/connectiveness to the land and other Indigenous peoples (Please see Appendix B for a more fulsome overview).

The Métis Nation within Saskatchewan—i.e., the Métis collective in Saskatchewan that holds constitutionally-protected rights under Section 35—have a rich history that includes the exercise of their inherent rights to self-determination and self-government over generations.

The MN-S

The MN-S is the democratic government of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan:

- The MN-S is comprised of democratic governance structures at the local, regional, and provincial levels.
- The MN-S has developed, adopted, and enforced its own laws, policies, and decisions that are grounded in its pre-existing legal orders, customs, and practices, including its own Constitution.
- The MN-S has established a fair, transparent, and objectively verifiable citizenship registry (“**Citizenship Registry**”) to identify and register Métis Nation citizens within Saskatchewan (“**Citizens**”) in accordance with the MN-S Constitution and the MN-S *Citizenship Act, 1999*.

**Métis Nation – Saskatchewan UNDRIP Position Paper
Draft February 14, 2023**

The MN-S is mandated by the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan to represent its Citizens and to advance their Métis rights and interests, including in respect of UNDRIP's full implementation and realization.

UNDRIP & UNDRIP Legislation

UNDRIP is an international human rights document that reflects the “minimum standards” of Indigenous rights around the world. It consists of 24 preambular statements and 46 articles, each of which delineate fundamental Indigenous rights, including those to education, lands and resources, self-determination, and self-government, as well as the principle of free, prior, and informed consent (“**FPIC**”).

On June 21, 2021, Canada enacted the *UNDRIP Act*, which codifies Canada's commitment to implement UNDRIP, including by:

- “in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, tak[ing] all measures necessary to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with the Declaration”;²
- “in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples [...], prepar[ing] and implement[ing] an action plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration”;³ and
- “in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, prepar[ing] a report for the previous fiscal year on the measures taken [to align the laws of Canada with UNDRIP] and the preparation and implementation of the action plan”⁴

UNDRIP, specifically Article 3, provides Canada the opportunity to follow through with their commitments to the Métis Nation and to honor the MN-S as a self-determining government. It is time to move beyond top-down, paternalistic policymaking. The Crown must honor the Métis Nation's inherent section 35 rights to self-determination and move towards a nation-to-nation relationship with the MN-S so that the Métis people may become partners — not subjects — in law, policy, and decision making. Self-determination is a right. It is a right held by the Métis Nation to participate as equals in the political processes of the state and a right to be afforded political legitimization in equal standing with Canada.

Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk – Michif / Kwayskahstahsoowin – Cree / Ēla nideĭ Ēla Ĕghëdëleda há - Dënë in Practice (in Relation to UNDRIP)

Below, the MN-S has set out its position in respect of how Canada must carry out some of its commitments around UNDRIP in order to advance the process of *Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ēla nideĭ Ēla Ĕghëdëleda há* and to effect a relevant and appropriate, mutually respectful framework for living together. These position statements are not intended to be exhaustive.

² *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, SC 2021, c 14, s 5 [*UNDRIP Act*].

³ *UNDRIP Act*, s 6(1).

⁴ *UNDRIP Act*, s 7(1).

**Métis Nation – Saskatchewan UNDRIP Position Paper
Draft February 14, 2023**

“Consultation & Cooperation” (UNDRIP, Art. 38 & UNDRIP Act, ss 5, 6 & 7)

Canada has committed to consulting **and** cooperating with Indigenous peoples, including the Métis, in order to implement UNDRIP in the country.⁵

Article 38 of UNDRIP introduces the concept of “consultation and cooperation” as follows:

States, ***in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples***, shall take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of this Declaration.⁶ [Emphasis added]

The concept of “consultation and cooperation” requires Canada and the MN-S to engage through their own governments and institutions ***as equals***—the concept is one of consultation **and** cooperation, not just consultation. The concept of “cooperation” requires a common effort from, and common benefit to, both parties.

Colonial policies focused on the nullification of the Métis Nation have created unequal relationships for Métis Nation citizens and their governments that persist to this day. Too often, Canada has engaged with the MN-S as though it was an interest group that competes with like groups to shape public policy instead of as a Nation-to-Nation partner—for example, the MN-S’s feedback on matters is often received for “consideration” purposes only. This approach fails to recognize the MN-S’s nationhood and self-governance.

The Métis Nation has historically been denied access to the same government services and programs as First Nations and Inuit peoples and they have been excluded from many of the settlements and compensation agreements related to Indigenous grievances. Until recently the federal government maintained that the Métis did not fall within the “Indian” category within the language of the Canada’s laws and policies towards Indigenous peoples, thus falling outside of the jurisdiction of the government.

Demonstrable gaps in equity continue to exist when the Métis-Crown relationship is compared to Canada’s relationships with other Indigenous groups. A single example of this inequity is the continued lack of justice for the Métis survivors of the Il-à-la-Crosse Residential School, where the evidence of harm from residential schools has been well documented in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission reporting but Métis survivors of this school are forced to litigate to have identical harms acknowledged. Recognition and resolution of the historical inequity of the MN-S-Crown relationship is required to shift the relationship to one of Nation-to-Nation equality and move towards reconciliation.

Canada must amend its approach, and it must consult and cooperate with the MN-S in a manner that recognizes and respects the MN-S as a full constitutional partner who is capable of, and entitled to, decision-making and otherwise contributing to public decision-making structures.⁷

Indigenous Citizenship (UNDRIP, Art. 9)

The Métis Nation within Saskatchewan is the only collective that can define itself as a People. Identity is at the core of who the MN-S and its Citizens are. A key part of identity is language, for

⁵ *UNDRIP Act*, ss 5, 6(1) & 7(1).

⁶ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Art 38 [UNDRIP].

⁷ See e.g., UNDRIP, Arts 3, 4, 19 & 32(2).

**Métis Nation – Saskatchewan UNDRIP Position Paper
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it is through language that the Métis's unique perspective, customs and traditions is preserved, protected, and promoted.

The MN-S must be able to determine (and have the final say on), without Canada's interference, a Métis individual's (in Saskatchewan) Citizenship (i.e., through its Citizenship Registry). Canada has a responsibility to ensure that nothing it does, directly or indirectly, interferes with the MN-S identifying its own Citizenship.

Article 9 of UNDRIP states:

Indigenous peoples and individuals have **the right to belong to an Indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned**. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.⁸
[Emphasis added]

Article 33 of UNDRIP states:

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions.
This does not impair the right of Indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.⁹ [Emphasis added]

These Articles establish that an objective of UNDRIP is to ensure that Indigenous peoples and individuals are able to belong to an Indigenous community or nation and to determine their own identity and membership.

Jurisdiction (UNDRIP as a Whole)

In order for Canada's commitment to fulfilling the objectives of UNDRIP to be realized, the MN-S must have jurisdiction and corresponding capacity and resources to develop services, programs, and other support for its Citizens in relation to the rights contained in UNDRIP and supported by Section 35.

The MN-S is best placed to determine how services, programs, and other supports should be developed and delivered (i.e., how the rights contained in UNDRIP should be realized), given its proximity to, its responsibility and its relationship with, its Citizens. Canada must break with its longstanding colonial policy of determining what is best for Indigenous peoples. Furthermore, Canada, as one of two "Crown" representatives, must ensure that the province of Saskatchewan is a part of the conversation, where necessary. The honour of the Crown demands that all Crown representatives come to the table in a truthful way and hold themselves, and each other, accountable. A concern exists regarding how the province as one of the two "Crown" representatives will comply with MN-S jurisdiction and respect the realization of the UNDRIP Act.

Below, the MN-S has set out its position in respect of how its jurisdiction may be exercised in practice (for certain non-exhaustive subject matters), and how Canada has a duty to support the MN-S's exercise of its jurisdiction (for certain non-exhaustive subject matters).

⁸ UNDRIP, Art 9.

⁹ UNDRIP, Art 33(1).

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Child & Family Services (UNDRIP, Arts. 7, 21 & 22)

“We must cherish our inheritance. We must preserve our nationality for the youth of our future.” – Louis Riel

The Métis have never given up responsibility or jurisdiction over child and family services. Canada must acknowledge this and affirm Métis jurisdiction over its own child and family services.

The MN-S is best placed to determine the rights and best interests of Métis children and families given its role as a government and proximity to, its responsibility and relationship with, its Citizens. Canada must ensure that the MN-S has sufficient financial and technical capacity to exercise such jurisdiction (e.g., extension of government funding and other services, such as those contemplated by Jordan’s Principle, to Métis children).

Article 7 of UNDRIP states:

Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, **including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.**¹⁰ [Emphasis added]

Article 22 of UNDRIP states:

States shall take measures, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, to ensure that Indigenous women **and children** enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.¹¹ [Emphasis added]

These Articles establish that an objective of UNDRIP is to ensure that Indigenous children are protected against all forms of violence and discrimination, including against forcible removal from their Indigenous collective. Applied to the MN-S, these Articles are intended to preserve and promote Métis identity, language and culture within families and communities. Underlying this approach is the need to preserve, protect, and promote Métis children’s inherent rights, customs, traditions, heritage, and language, while addressing the effects of colonization that continue to have intergenerational impacts emotionally, socially, psychologically, culturally, spiritually, and economically.

Lands & Resources (UNDRIP, Arts. 25, 26, 28, 29, 30 & 32)

UNDRIP references Indigenous rights in respect of lands, territories, and resources in several Articles. These Articles establish that an objective of UNDRIP is to protect Indigenous peoples’ connection to, and their rights in respect of, their lands, territories, and resources.

Governments must acknowledge and accept Métis rights to harvest, gather, hunt, and fish and to continue to use their lands for traditional and ancestral activities. These rights include the right to access and oversee the economic opportunities that flow from the lands.

¹⁰ UNDRIP, Art 7(2).

¹¹ UNDRIP, Art 22(2).

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The MN-S and its Citizens maintain an integral connection to their lands, territories, and resources, which has spanned generations. Canada must recognize and respect this integral connection, and it must support the MN-S in protecting this integral connection by resetting its approach to matters concerning the MN-S's lands, territories, and resources (e.g., rejecting the doctrine of discovery and the premise that the lands now known as Canada were *terra nullius* at the time of European sovereignty).

Significant unfinished treaty business concerning outstanding land entitlements of the Métis exist today, which Canada must commit to address. The historic scrip system applied to the Métis Nation stands as an example of a colonial policy aimed at ignoring the collective rights of the Métis and purposefully removing Métis access to lands, territories, and resources. Resolution of land entitlements of the Métis Nation continues to be of utmost importance.

The Métis are not a landless people (as evidenced by the MN-S's and its Citizens' integral connection to their lands, territories, and resources). Instead, the Métis have been made landless by colonial government actions. Canada must work with the MN-S to co-develop a Métis-specific claims process to resolve the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan's outstanding land claims. The current approach, which requires the MN-S to litigate every matter in order to be heard, is unacceptable and does not facilitate *Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ĕła nideł Ĕła Ĕghëdëleda há*.

Culture (UNDRIP, Arts. 11, 14(3), 15 & 31)

“My people will sleep for one hundred years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back.” – Louis Riel

UNDRIP references Indigenous rights in respect of culture in several Articles. These Articles establish that an objective of UNDRIP is to protect Indigenous peoples' right to maintain, protect, and develop the past, present, and future manifestations of their cultures.

The Métis are a bi-cultural people, and an understanding of the Métis perspective can only be achieved through this bi-cultural lens. The MN-S, through its Citizens, is best placed to determine how the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan's right to maintain, protect, and develop its culture should be implemented and advanced, including by developing and delivering applicable initiatives and programs. Canada must ensure that the MN-S has sufficient financial and technical capacity to exercise such jurisdiction, and Canada must ensure that its relationship with the MN-S is conducted through this bi-cultural lens in order for such relationship to be a true Nation-to-Nation relationship.

FPIC (UNDRIP, Arts. 10, 11, 19, 28, 29 & 32)

Further to the recognition of the MN-S' and its Citizens' integral connection to their lands, territories, and resources which has spanned generations, Canada must recognize, honour, and respect the MN-S's input in respect to how their lands, territories, and resources may be used.

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FPIC is an international human rights norm that is intended to serve as a “safeguard” for Indigenous rights against project development activities that may impact Indigenous peoples’ lands, territories, or other resources.¹² UNDRIP references FPIC in six Articles, including in its Article 32, which states:

States shall **consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to** the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water, or other resources.¹³
[Emphasis added]

FPIC’s four components can be understood to mean:

- “**Free**” means that the consultation and cooperation process to obtain consent must be conducted in a manner that is free from coercion, intimidation, manipulation, and pressure.
- “**Prior**” means that the consultation and cooperation process to obtain consent must occur prior to the undertaking of the proposed activity.
- “**Informed**” means that Indigenous peoples must receive, and have access to, sufficient information and resources in order to understand the proposed activity and the potential impacts stemming therefrom.
- “**Consent**” means that Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in respect of the proposed activity that may adversely impact their lands, territories, or other resources, and the right to give, modify, withdraw, or withhold their consent in respect of such proposed activity.

The MN-S translates FPIC to *aansaamb wichihiwaywin* in Michif, *mâmawi wetaskaw wiyîhcikêwin* in Cree and *Ēta nuhêghari Ētk’ësi ʔë sni* in Dënë. *Aansaamb wichihiwaywin / mâmawi wetaskaw wiyîhcikêwin* means all parties coming together in peace, to reach mutual agreement. *Ēta nuhêghari Ētk’ësi ʔë sni* means “together through our words we say yes.”

To achieve *aansaamb wichihiwaywin / mâmawi wetaskaw wiyîhcikêwin / Ēta nuhêghari Ētk’ësi ʔë sni*, MN-S must have the opportunity to participate meaningfully, as an equal party, in decision-making processes concerning proposed activities that may adversely impact its lands, territories, and/or resources. MN-S participation must include opportunities to receive information, to engage in discussions, and to ultimately choose if FPIC should be given.

Canada must commit to achieving FPIC (*aansaamb wichihiwaywin / mâmawi wetaskaw wiyîhcikêwin / Ēta nuhêghari Ētk’ësi ʔë sni*) when making decisions that may adversely impact the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan. FPIC requires Canada to obtain the MN-S’s “consent” (not merely to consult) prior to making such decisions, and it imposes a higher standard on Canada than the Crown’s duty to consult, which requires Canada to consult the MN-S, and *only where appropriate*, to accommodate its interests (i.e. under current law, Canada may proceed without consent and, in some circumstances,

¹² James Anaya, “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya: Extractive industries and indigenous peoples” (1 July 2013), UN Doc A/HRC/24/41, *United Nations* (website) – [link](#).

¹³ UNDRIP, Art 32(2).

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without accommodation). FPIC, and the higher standard that it imposes, is required to reflect the MN-S's and its Citizens' integral connection to their lands, territories, and resources, and to facilitate *Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk / Kwayskahstahsoowin / Ēta nidel Ēta Ēghēdēleda há.*

Fiscal Relationship (UNDRIP, Arts. 4, 38 & 39)

The MN-S requires financial and technical capacity in order to build and operate a Métis government that is able to deliver services, programs, and other support to its Citizens such that its Citizens are able to enjoy the rights contained in UNDRIP and supported by Section 35.

Indigenous peoples have the **right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States** and through international cooperation, **for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.**¹⁴ [Emphasis added]

This Article establishes that an objective of UNDRIP is to ensure that Indigenous peoples have access to adequate financial and technical capacity to be able to enjoy the rights contained therein. This means ensuring that Citizens are supported and given opportunities to build their own capacity through education and other means.

The MN-S is best placed to determine its capacity needs given its proximity to, its responsibility and its relationship with, its Citizens, and Canada's provision of such capacity must respect the MN-S's self-determination and ensure that current challenges around the chronic lack of capacity are eliminated.

Self-Determination, Self-Government and Recognition, Observance and Enforcement of Treaties (UNDRIP, Arts. 3, 4, and 37)

Self-determination and self-government are inherent rights of the Métis Nation. UNDRIP, specifically Articles 3, 4 and 37, provides Canada the opportunity to follow through with their commitments to the Métis Nation and to honor the MN-S as a self-determining government. Canada must recognize, support, and advance the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan's ongoing exercise of its Métis Rights, including its inherent right to self-determination and the right of self-government, based upon Canada's constitutional responsibility to advance relationships with Métis People.

MN-S Action Plan

The MN-S previously submitted its preliminary response to Canada's Legislative Proposal Regarding the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the "Draft Legislation"). The MN-S stands by the position outlined within that response, wherein a robust process for the national action plan, annual reporting and monitoring of the national action plan and ongoing consultation with Rights-Holders were highlighted as primary considerations. This MN-S Position Paper on UNDRIP aligns with that response, highlighting the need for ongoing and equal Nation-to-Nation consultation and cooperation between the MN-S and Canada. This

¹⁴ UNDRIP, Art 39.

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equal Nation-to-Nation relationship is not a point-in-time agreement but an ongoing relationship requiring continuous collaboration.

In addition to the specific items highlighted within the MN-S response to the Draft Legislation, the MN-S further identifies the need for a mechanism for enforcement within Canada's action plan. This enforcement must apply to the accountability and responsibilities of Canada but must also address enforcement of provincial adherence. The absence of an enforcement mechanism that establishes and monitors cross-governmental compliance means that the rights affirmed by the UN declaration lack the force of law. The rights affirmed by the UN declaration need to be enforceable rights, and not mere aspirational goals.

To realize and fulfill the intent of UNDRIP, Canada must also, aside from holding a broad and transparent engagement and consultation process, ensure that the writing of federal laws is not done in secrecy in order to be consistent with the declaration.

The MN-S is continuing to consult with its citizens and will be preparing its own Action Plan and further recommendations to Canada. The MN-S expects the implementation of UNDRIP to continue to be an ongoing process, requiring a cooperative approach between the MN-S and the Crown and which will include continuous engagement, consultation, and collaboration to assess and ensure effectiveness and accountability into the future.

This position paper represents a working draft and has not yet been approved by the MN-S Provincial Métis Council (PMC) and Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA). Assessment of UNDRIP and UNDA and discussion with MN-S governing members continues. These assessments and continued discussions will inform the MN-S Action Plan action plan.

“We may be a small community and a half-breed community at that – but we are men; free and spirited men and we will not allow even the Dominion of Canada to trample on our rights.” – Louis Riel

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Appendix A:

Glossary and UNDRIP Guide

<i>Michif Word</i>	<i>Cree Word</i>	<i>Dënë Word</i>	<i>Translation</i>	<i>UNDRIP Concept</i>
<i>Kwaayesh Aashtaayaahk</i>	<i>Kwayskahstahsoowin</i>	<i>Ĕta nideĭ Ĕta Ĕghĕdĕleda há</i>	Setting things Right (Michif/Cree) Gathering to work together (Dënë)	Reconciliation
<i>Aansaamb Wichihwaywin</i>	<i>Mâmawi Wetaskaw Wiyîhcikêwin</i>	<i>Ĕta nuhĕghari Ĕtk'ĕsi ʔĕ sni (Dënë)</i>	All parties come in peace and mutual agreement (Michif/Cree) Together through our words we say yes (Dënë)	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.
<i>Tipaymishooyaahk</i>	<i>Otipemisiwak</i>	<i>Ĕdĕ ts'ĕn K'oidĕ</i>	The people who own themselves (Michif/Cree) We have authority (Dënë)	Self- determination of Métis Peoples

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Appendix B:

Overview of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan

For over two centuries, the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan, as part of the Métis Nation, has exercised its inherent rights to self-determination and self-government through various means and measures, including, but not limited to, the following:

- petitioning, asserting, and acting on both individual and collectively-held Métis interests, aspirations, rights, and claims, including land claims in respect of the Métis homeland in Saskatchewan;
- organizing politically and coming together at the local, regional, and provincial levels to create the MN-S, as well as its predecessors, including the Saskatchewan Métis Society (“**SMS**”), the Métis Society of Saskatchewan (“**MSS**”), and the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (“**AMNSIS**”);
- adopting, implementing, and enforcing its own *Constitution*, which establishes its own democratic governance structures and institutions at the local, regional, and provincial levels, including the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, which serves as the governing authority of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan;
- determining its own citizenship as well as developing and maintaining its own objectively verifiable citizenship registration system;
- negotiating with other governments within Canada with respect to Métis rights, interests, and claims; and
- adopting, implementing, and enforcing its own laws, policies, and collective decision-making.

Despite the MN-S’s representative role on behalf of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan being well-established and acknowledged, other governments and Canadian law has often denied the rights, interests, and claims of the Métis, including the mandate of the MN-S as a Métis government.

In response to requirements set by other governments, the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan has incorporated the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc. under provincial legislation within Saskatchewan to act as its legal and administrative arm in order to administer policies and programs, to facilitate funding arrangements, and to establish intergovernmental relations.

The Métis Nation within Saskatchewan’s history of exercising its inherent rights to self-determination and self-government are more specifically set out below.

In the early 1930s, the Métis Nation in southern Saskatchewan organized to address issues pertaining to the Métis scrip system and Métis claims to land, and they formed the “Half-Breeds of Saskatchewan” to represent Métis interests in southern Saskatchewan.

At the same time, the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan founded the SMS to address issues pertaining to Métis poverty, lack of education, lack of employment, land displacement, and hunting issues in southern and central Saskatchewan, and by 1939, there were over 20 “Locals” (the

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SMS's community-based representative structures) in rural and urban centres throughout Saskatchewan.

In 1964, the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan formed the MSS to represent the Métis in southern and central Saskatchewan, and the Métis Association of Saskatchewan (“**MAS**”) to represent the Métis in northern Saskatchewan and non-status Indians.

In 1967, the MSS and the MAS merged, retaining the name of the MSS, and in 1975, the MSS was restructured as the AMNSIS.

In the early 1980s, as part of the process to patriate Canada's Constitution, the AMNSIS, along with other Indigenous communities and governments, participated in the constitutional processes that led to the inclusion of section 35 in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, which expressly includes the Métis as one of the “aboriginal peoples of Canada”.

In 1988, the AMNSIS held a referendum to limit its membership to citizens of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan only, which referendum passed, and the organization returned to the name of the MSS.

In 1993, the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan passed the MN-S *Constitution*, which defines the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan as a people, set out the MN-S's core values and laws, and details the mechanisms of the MN-S as the democratic government of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan.

Since 1993, the MN-S has amended the *Constitution*, and it has enacted legislation to supplement the *Constitution*, in furtherance of its role as the democratic government of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan.

In 1995, Canada recognized in the *Approach to Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiation of Aboriginal Self-Government* that the inherent right of self-government is an existing Aboriginal right under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Based on this approach to Métis self-government, the MN-S and Canada engaged in bilateral processes that included the provision of capacity support for the MN-S and its institutions.

In 1996, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples final report was released that included a series of recommendations with respect to the Métis, including, that “[p]olitical negotiation on a nation-to-nation or analogous basis be the primary method of resolving Métis issues.”

In the mid to late 1990s, Métis began to turn to the courts to seek judicial clarity in relation to the nature and scope of Métis rights protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

In 2001, the MN-S, as a founding member of the Métis National Council (“**MNC**”), participated in and supported the adoption of a national definition of citizenship within the Métis Nation through a MNC General Assembly.

In 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada (“**SCC**”) released its decision in *R. v. Powley*, which encouraged the development of a “systematic method of identifying Métis rights-holders” based on “[objectively verifiable] proof of self-identification, ancestral connection, and community acceptance” to ensure that “the difficulty of identifying members of the Métis community must not be exaggerated as a basis for defeating their rights under the Constitution of Canada.”

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Since 2003, the MN-S, along with other governing members of the MNC, has worked with Canada to develop a federal response to *R. v. Powley*, which has included the development of national standards as well as ongoing capacity funding to the MN-S for the development of an objectively verifiable system for the identification of Métis Nation Citizens as well as Métis rights-holders based on the criteria set out by the SCC in *R. v. Powley*.

In addition to *R. v. Powley*, over the last two decades, the SCC has also provided additional guidance with respect to the nature and scope of Métis rights, interests and claims in *Alberta (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development) v. Cunningham*, 2011 SCC 37, *Manitoba Métis Federation Inc. v. Canada (Attorney General)*, 2013 SCC 14, *Daniels v. Canada (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)*, 2016 SCC 12, as well as ongoing direction to the Crown and the Métis to negotiate with a view to achieving constructive arrangements or agreements and just settlements that advance reconciliation.

The Métis Nation within Saskatchewan authorizes and mandates the MN-S to assert and advance collectively-held Métis rights, interests, and claims on behalf of its Citizens, their community, and the Métis in Saskatchewan, including by negotiating and arriving at agreements that advance, determine, recognize, and respect Métis rights.

Based on the above, Canada has engaged in intergovernmental relations with the MN-S and its predecessors and since 2016, Canada has engaged in renewed discussions and negotiations with the MN-S that have led to common understandings being reached and consolidated through a series of agreements that advance reconciliation between the Parties, including:

- on April 13, 2017, Canada and the MNC and its Governing Members, including the MN-S, signed the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord*;
- on February 22, 2018, the MN-S and Canada signed the *Memorandum of Understanding on Advancing Reconciliation*;
- on July 20, 2018, the MN-S and Canada signed the *Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation*;
- on June 27, 2019, the MN-S and Canada signed the *Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement*;
- on July 19, 2019, the MN-S, Canada, and the Île-à-la-Crosse Boarding School Steering Committee Inc. signed the *Memorandum of Understanding for Île-à-la-Crosse Exploratory Discussions*;
- on May 6, 2020, the MN-S and Parks Canada signed the *Memorandum of Understanding Respecting Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program*; and
- on April 1, 2021, the MN-S and Canada signed the *Interim Fiscal Financing Agreement*.

In 2017, the MN-S began negotiating with Canada under the Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination (“RIRSD”) process to explore new ways of working together to advance the recognition of Métis rights and self-determination in Saskatchewan.

In 2019, the MN-S and Canada set up a side table under the RIRSD process to specifically negotiate a resolution of all Métis land claims in Saskatchewan, including a land claim

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commenced by the MN-S and the MNC in respect of the Métis homeland in Saskatchewan in 1994.

As of 2022, the MN-S has over 26,000 registered Citizens based on an objectively verifiable system that registers Métis Nation Citizens and identifies Métis rights-holders. As part of Canada's response to *R. v. Powley*, this registration system has undergone periodic reviews by third parties.

APPENDIX D

**MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
MÉTIS NATION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

held May 27-28, 2023

LIST OF REGISTERED VOTING DELEGATES

RR – Denotes “Regional Representatives” | As circulated by Assembly Registration Staff and confirmed in Roll Calls

<p>Northern Region #1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Burnouf, Laura (RR) 2. Hansen, Tommy 3. Lafleur, Lazar 4. Lavallee, Larry 	<p>Northern Region #2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Montgrand, Leonard (RR) 2. Hansen, Marlene 3. Herman, Dean 4. Herman, Violet 5. Janvier, Donna 6. Kwan, Kelly 7. Shewchuk, Keith 8. Wagenaar, Matilda 	<p>Northern Region #3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bouvier, Mervin “Tex” (RR) 2. Daigneault, Joe 3. Gardiner, Louis 4. Kenny, Fred 5. Kenny, Percy 6. Laliberte, Patsy 7. Natomagan, Mike 8. Roy, Kelvin 	<p>Eastern Region #1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carriere, Ryan (RR) 2. McKay, Ferlin
<p>Eastern Region #2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digness, Brent (RR) 2. Bell, Viola 3. Belliveau, Brenda 4. Ekert, Marilyn 5. Genaille, Diane 6. Johnson, Helene 7. St. Dennis, Marshall 8. Yip, Sheila 	<p>Eastern Region #2A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potyondi, Joanna 	<p>Eastern Region #3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Friesen, Marg (RR) 2. Blondeau, Ed 3. Lagace, Linda 4. LeClair, Larry 5. Mondor, Dexter 6. Nykiforuk-Racette, Trisha 7. Pelletier, Sheila 8. Poitras, Leebert 9. Rogers, Tracey 10. Sopp, Linda 	<p>Western Region #1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. King, Loretta (RR) 2. Bell, Michael 3. Boyer, Warren 4. Lavoie, Margaret 5. Ludvikson, Debra 6. Murray, Kat 7. Pouliot, Marjorie 8. Wells, Kyle
<p>Western Region #1A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kennedy, Bill (RR) 2. Trotchie, Becky 3. Klatenbach, Deiter 	<p>Western Region #2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. McLennan, Sherry (RR) 2. Andrews, Sheila 3. Bowering, Jade 4. Debray, Candy 5. Fiddler, Leroy 6. Gardiner, Jennifer 7. Guillet, Victor 8. Hope, Carla 9. Johnson, Gail 10. Letendre, Jodi 11. McKay, Darlene 12. Neufeldt, Wanda 13. Primeau, Jeanette 14. Rondeau, Karen 15. Tetarenko, Lucille 	<p>Western Region #2A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pruden-Nansel, Kathie (RR) 2. Card, Barbara 3. Denomie, Jeremy 4. Falcon, Barry 5. Hurton, Penny 6. Isbister, Shirley 7. McInnes, Adam 8. Ormerod, Jocelyn 9. Parenteau, Chance 	<p>Western Region #3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gervais, Wendy (RR) 2. Andersen, Rebecca 3. Brooks, Dennis 4. Drouin, Shea 5. Fazakas, Marilyn 6. Hamilton, Eugene 7. Hawman, Darrell
<p>Youth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Laing-LaRose, Autumn (President) 2. Demerais, Cody 3. Lacroix, Raina 4. Shynkaruk, Abbie 5. Wiens, Justina 	<p>Les Filles de Madeleine</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Langan, Darlene (Interim President) 2. Balanger, Beckie 3. King, Gwen 4. Reed, Cheryl 5. Vandale, Bonnie 	<p>Provincial Executive</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. McCallum, Glen (President) 2. LeClair, Michelle (Vice President) 3. McCallum, Lisa (Secretary) 	

APPENDIX E

MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN (MN-S) MÉTIS NATION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (MNLA)

held May 27-28, 2023

LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were provided with the Online Agenda Binder

Dialogue Forums:

1. May 26, 2023 Dialogue Forum Schedule
2. Information on the Dialogue Forums:
 - Constitutional Reform – Proposed Amendments to MN-S Constitution
 - Constitutional Reform – Proposed Changes to the *Elections Act* and General Assembly
 - Child and Family Services
 - Commission for the Review of Locals

Speaker Rules:

1. Speaker Rules (Authority of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker)

MNLA Agenda:

2. Agenda for the May 27-28, 2023 MNLA

MNLA Roll Call:

1. List of Delegates Registered to Attend the May 27-28, 2023 MNLA

Resolutions:

1. Draft Resolution (05-2023-02): Adoption of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker
2. Draft Resolution (06-2023-03): Appointment of the Minute Taker
3. Draft Resolution (06-2023-04): Order of the Day / Adoption of the Agenda
4. Draft Resolution (06-2023-05): Appointment of the Dumont's Scouts
5. Draft Resolution (06-2023-5A): Adoption of Shell Lake Local and Leask Local
6. Draft Resolution (06-2023-06): Adoption of the November 19-20, 2022 MNLA Minutes
7. Draft Resolution (06-2023-07): Approval of the Operating Budget 2023-2024
8. Draft Resolution (06-2023-08): Approval to Support C92 Consultations for MN-S Child and Family Services
9. Draft Resolution (06-2023-09): Reaffirm the MN-S Position Paper on the UNDRIP Act
10. Draft Resolution (06-2023-10): Resolution to Accept ALL MN-S Reports
11. Draft Resolution (06-2023-11): Resolution to Support Metis Harvesting
12. Draft Resolution (06-2023-12): Resolution for MN-S Registry Dialogue Forum
13. Draft Resolution (06-2023-13): Resolution for Improve MN-S Local Governance Capacity

Legal Update:

1. Presentation titled, "Commission on the Review of Locals", dated May 27, 2023 presented by Michael Gatin
 2. Presentation titled, "Ministry of Lands and Environment", dated May 28, 2023
 3. Presentation titled, "MN-S Mental Health and Addictions", dated May 28, 2023
 4. Presentation titled, "MN-S Health and Well-Being", dated May 28, 2023
 5. Presentation titled, "Ministry of Language", dated May 28, 2023
 6. Presentation titled, "Ministry of Culture and Heritage", dated May 28, 2023
 7. Presentation titled, "Ministry of Social Infrastructure", dated May 28, 2023
 8. Presentation titled, "Ministry of Early Learning and Child Care", dated May 28, 2023
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Executive Reports:

1. Report from the Provincial Vice President
2. Report from the Provincial Secretary

Ministerial Reports:

1. Ministerial Report to the MNLA: Culture and Heritage
2. Ministerial Report to the MNLA: Health
3. Ministerial Report to the MNLA: Housing
4. Ministerial Report to the MNLA: Inter Nation Relations
5. Ministerial Report to the MNLA: Lands and Environment
6. Ministerial Report to the MNLA: Language
7. Ministerial Report to the MNLA: Post-Secondary Education
8. Ministerial Report to the MNLA: Citizenship Registry
9. Ministerial Report to the MNLA: Sports
10. Ministerial Report to the MNLA: Women and Gender Equity
11. Ministerial Report to the MNLA: Youth
12. Ministerial Report to the MNLA: Veterans

Regional Reports:

1. Report to the MNLA: Northern Region 1
2. Report to the MNLA: Northern Region 2
3. Report to the MNLA: Northern Region 3
4. Report to the MNLA: Eastern Region 1
5. Report to the MNLA: Eastern Region 2
6. Report to the MNLA: Eastern Region 3
7. Report to the MNLA: Western Region 1
8. Report to the MNLA: Western Region 2
9. Report to the MNLA: Western Region 2A
10. Report to the MNLA: Western Region 3

Affiliate Reports:

1. Report to the MNLA from SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation
2. Report to the MNLA from Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan
3. Report to the MNLA from Gabriel Dumont Institute
4. Report to the MNLA from Clarence Campeau Development Fund

Legislative Documents:

1. *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan*
2. *Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Citizenship Act*
3. *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act 2007*
4. *Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly Act*

APPENDIX F

**MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
MÉTIS NATION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

held May 27-28, 2023

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these Minutes

ELCC	Early Learning and Child Care
GEMS	Governance Engagement Mechanisms
MGRSA	Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement
MNC	Métis National Council
MNLA	Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
MN-S	Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council
PMYC	Provincial Métis Youth Council
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UPIP	Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples