



MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
held April 20, 2021

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Regular Meeting scheduled April 20, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. via videoconference.

PRESENT:

Glen McCallum, President	Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3
Gerald Morin, Vice-President, Chair	Wendy Gervais, Western Region 3
Ryan Carriere, Eastern Region 1	Penny Hurton, Western Region 2A
Earl Cook, Treasurer	Billy Kennedy, Western Region 1A
Lisa McCallum, Secretary	Loretta King, Western Region 1
Jaycee Bell, Youth Council	Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region 3	Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2
Brent Digness, Eastern Region 2	

ABSENT:

Derek Langan, Eastern Region 2A	Tammy Mah, Les Filles des Madeleine
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ALSO PRESENT:

Elder Norman Fleury	Claire Letendre, Bang Up Productions
Gwen LaFond, Chief Electoral Officer	

MN-S OFFICE:

Julia Burns, Director of Communications	Dorothy Myo, Senior Director of Policy and Research
Mark Calette, Senior Director of Administration, Duty to Consult and Land Claims	Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer
Brandy Laronde, Office Manager	Riva Racette, Legal Counsel
Lillian Lizee, Interim Senior Advisor	Erin Reid, Chief Strategy Officer
	Lori Skjeie, Director, Culture, Language and Heritage

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Carrie Peacock, Recording Secretary, Raincoast Ventures Ltd. *(from recording)*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Gerald Morin, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m. after confirming that a quorum was present.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Norman Fleury offered an Opening Prayer.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Earl Cook)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Raincoast Ventures Ltd. as Recording Secretary for its April 20, 2021 meeting.

CARRIED (210420-01)

During discussion, it was requested that the agenda be amended to include the following Other Business items: “COVID-19 Update”, “Elders Gathering”, “Transition Binders” and “Métis Women and Métis Youth”.

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

That the Agenda for the April 20, 2021 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council meeting be adopted as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer – Elder Norman Fleury
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Review of the Minutes:
 - 4.1 Approval of the March 16, 2021 Minutes
 - 4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Proposed Resolutions:
 - 5.1 Appointing an Adjudicator and a Complaints Officer for the 2021 Election
6. Election 2021 Expectations
7. Other Business:
 - 7.1 COVID-19 Update
 - 7.2 Elders Gathering
 - 7.3 Ministerial Transition Binders
 - 7.4 Métis Women and Métis Youth
8. Conclusion and Closing Prayer.

CARRIED (210420-02)

4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Approval of the March 16, 2021 PMC Minutes

Related information: Draft Minutes of the March 16, 2021, PMC Regular Meeting

Secretary Lisa McCallum read aloud the resolutions indicated in the draft minutes.

It was MOVED (Earl Cook) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)

That the Minutes of the March 16, 2021 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting be approved, with an amendment to replace references to “trailing” with alternate text.

CARRIED (210420-03)

Wendy Gervais voted in opposition

4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

The meeting recalled the March 16, 2021 discussion on the resolution to expand the Michif and Dene Early Learning Pilot Project into a full MN-S program, that could be implemented equitably across the province.

5. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

5.1 Appointing an Adjudicator and a Complaints Officer for the 2021 Election

Related information:

- *Draft Resolution for “Approving of Appointment of Adjudicator” labelled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution” and dated April 20, 2021*
- *Draft Resolution for “Approving of Appointment of Complaints Officer” labelled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution” and dated April 20, 2021*

Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer, referenced the resolution passed at the March 16, 2021 PMC meeting to appoint Allan Brabant as Adjudicator and Marilyn Poitras as Complaints Officer for the 2021 Election of the MN-S and reported that both appointees declined the positions.

It was MOVED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier) and SECONDED (Earl Cook)

WHEREAS it was recommended at this meeting of April 20, 2021, that the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) approve the appointment of John Hill to the Office of Adjudicator within the meaning of the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007*;

BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC hereby approves the appointment of John Hill to the position of Adjudicator, to adjudicate any complaints as may be referred by the Complaints Officer for the 2021 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Election.

CARRIED (210420-04)

It was MOVED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)

WHEREAS Gordon Kirkby was appointed by the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) to serve in the Office of Complaints Officer, within the meaning of the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007*, for the 2017 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Election;

WHEREAS it was recommended at this meeting of April 20, 2021, that the PMC approve the appointment of Gordon Kirkby to the Office of Complaints Officer for the 2021 MN-S Election;

BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC hereby approves the appointment of Gordon Kirkby to the position of Complaints Officer, within the meaning of the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007*, for the 2021 MN-S Election.

CARRIED (210420-05)

Wendy Gervais and Lisa McCallum voted in opposition

6. ELECTIONS 2021 EXPECTATIONS

Gwen LaFond, Chief Electoral Officer, provided an update on the status of preparations for the May 29, 2021 MN-S Election, and offered comments on:

- Training provided to Regional Returning Officers and Assistant Regional Returning Officers on April 9-11, 2021
- Establishing indoor polling stations at locations Métis citizens are familiar with, that are large enough to accommodate social distancing requirements
- The MN-S Election website (www.mnselection.ca), which will post information, including:
 - o Confirmed polling station locations (once the election is called)
 - o A list of all communities and their designated polling station locations
 - o Confirmed nominees (on April 24, 2021)
- Adhering to the provincial COVID-19 pandemic safety standards and restrictions:
 - o Barriers will be installed for the protection of citizens and polling station employees
 - o Hand sanitizer, face masks and other protections have been arranged.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Rules for filing nomination papers with the Chief Electoral Officer, from April 24-29, 2021
- Securing polling stations indoors to keep materials safe from unexpected weather changes
- Complying with COVID-19 safety restrictions to protect MN-S employees and citizens
- Informing the Chief Electoral Officer of any emerging issues that may impact confirmed polling station locations (e.g. closures due to COVID-19 cases, etc.)
- Ensuring disinfection of all high-touch surfaces on a regular basis at the polling stations
- Social distancing signage provided by Elections Saskatchewan; rolls of tape were also provided to mark the floors to show people where to safely walk and stand
- The intent to hold four advance polls and a mobile poll in each region, with additional polls in more populated areas:
 - o Voting will be open from May 14-21, 2021
 - o The location of citizens, accessibility, and other criteria will be considered when determining polling station locations.

PMC members were invited to contact the MN-S Election website or the Chief Electoral Officer, for further information.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 COVID-19 Update

Marg Friesen, Minister of Health, acknowledged the new COVID-19 restrictions announced by Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and offered comments on:

- Collaborating with the SHA to identify locations where MN-S citizens could access vaccines
- Continuing COVID-19 supports through the MN-S election period (e.g. providing isolating citizens with emergency food hampers, personal protective equipment, and other supplies)
- Vaccine clinic locations, posted on the SHA's website.

Additional updates were provided on:

- Mental health supports, including:
 - o An ongoing strategy needed to support mental wellness and addiction recovery services
 - o MN-S citizens' access to a 24-hour Mental Health and Addictions Crisis Line, offered through the Métis Nation of Ontario

- Assistance for MN-S citizens and their families, through a Saskatchewan-based Crisis Intervention Coordinator
- Opening the Recovery Lake land-based healing program by June 2021
- Services required by vulnerable citizens, including those who are homeless or transient
- Requesting frontline service providers to ask the Indigenous people they support, whether they identify as being First Nations or Métis, to improve the delivery of future services
- Benefits of potentially expanding the services offered by the Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc. to include mental health services and 24-hour counselling
- The MN-S' medical transportation program, which was accessed with minimal complications.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Concerns related to Métis citizens not being prioritized for vaccinations in Saskatchewan
- The vaccine clinic scheduled at the MN-S Office in Saskatoon, on April 23 and 24, 2021
- Appreciation to the Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Saskatoon Tribal Council and other Indigenous communities for including Métis citizens in their vaccine rollout
- An upcoming MN-S press release to announce Indigenous vaccination sites.

7.2 Elders Gathering

Sherry McLennan, Minister of Culture, Language and Heritage, acknowledged the April 17, 2021 virtual Elders Gathering, and noted that:

- Approximately 40 Knowledge Keepers and Elders attended the Gathering
- Information was shared and gathered in separate breakout sessions, focussed on language, harvesting, protocols and honouring Elders
- An Elders Symposium will be held in 2022; Regional Chairs could send the MN-S Office a list of Knowledge Keepers and Elders in their regions, to be invited to future Elders events
- Some Knowledge Keepers and Elders did not receive an emailed invitation to the Gathering, and requested they be invited to future events.

7.3 Ministerial Transition Binders

Related information: Briefing note titled, "Ministerial Transition Binders", dated April 16, 2021

Richard Quintal confirmed that Ministerial transition binders would be finalized during the writ period, to present to new and re-elected Regional Chairs, post-election.

Regional Chairs were encouraged to include important information in their transition binders, such as financial information, and contact details for the person overseeing COVID-19 supports in their region. They were further reminded that before April 29, 2021, any car rentals must be returned, and any MN-S assets must be locked in their Regional Office. After April 29, 2021, they could no longer access their Regional Offices.

Regional Chairs were informed of their fiduciary obligations and the importance of acting in the best interest of the MN-S.

In response to questions raised, the following comments were offered:

- Salaries will continue to be paid to current elected officials until May 29, 2021
- Indigenous funding announced in the federal budget was for infrastructure, health, economic development, early learning and childcare, and mental health and addiction supports

- Further details on the federal budget announcement are expected at upcoming meetings with Indigenous Services Canada and Canada-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

During discussion, commendations were extended to:

- MN-S elected representatives and senior officials for supporting the Health Accord
- Those involved in the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism discussions with government
- The accomplishments, accountability and transparency of the MN-S and the current PMC.

Request for Action

It was requested that Riva Racette send an email to the Provincial Métis Council confirming whether they will be eligible to collect Employment Insurance benefits, if they are not re-elected.

7.4 Métis Women and Métis Youth

Clarification was requested on why an officially elected women's representative was not recognized by the Métis Women.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Funding allocated by the MN-S for the Métis Women and the Métis Youth
- The importance of the Métis Women and Métis Youth representatives participating at PMC meetings and providing updates on priority issues
- Reviewing the roles and responsibilities of the Métis Women and Métis Youth at a future PMC meeting.

Jaycee Bell, Métis Youth Council, confirmed that the Métis Youth Council would meet on April 21, 2021. An online election, open to participants from across the province, will be held before July 31, 2021.

8. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting concluded at approximately 11:30 a.m. with a Closing Prayer offered by Elder Fleury.

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LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were provided for information at the April 20, 2021 meeting:

1. Agenda for the MN-S Provincial Métis Council Regular Meeting scheduled April 20, 2021
2. Draft Minutes of the MN-S PMC Regular Meeting held March 16, 2021
3. Draft Resolution for "Approving of Appointment of Adjudicator", labelled "For Internal Purposes and Not for Distribution" and dated April 20, 2021
4. Draft resolution for "Approving of Appointment of Complaints Officer", labelled "For Internal Purposes and Not for Distribution" and dated April 20, 2021
5. Briefing note titled, "Ministerial Transition Binder 2021", dated April 16, 2021

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

MN-S	Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council
SHA	Saskatchewan Health Authority