



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

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Regular Meeting scheduled July 20, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the Dakota Dunes Resort, 203 Dakota Dunes Way, Whitecap, Saskatchewan.

PRESENT:

Glen McCallum, President	Brent Digness, Eastern Region 2
Michelle LeClair, Vice President, Chair	Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3
Robert LaFontaine, Treasurer	Wendy Gervais, Western Region 3
Lisa McCallum, Secretary	Billy Kennedy, Western Region 1A
Jaycee Bell, Youth Council	Loretta King, Western Region 1
Laura Burnouf, Northern Region 1	Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region 3	Kathie Pruden Nansel, Western Region 2A
Ryan Carriere, Eastern Region 1	Tim Roussin, Eastern Region 2A

ABSENT:

Tammy Mah, Les Filles de Madeleine	Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2
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ALSO PRESENT:

Elder Norman Fleury	Felix Merasty, Veteran and Dumont’s Scout
Tom Isaac, Cassels Brock and Blackwell LLP	Elder Max Morin

MN-S OFFICE:

Janice Braden, Senior Policy Analyst	Riva Farrell Racette, Legal Counsel
Lillian Lizette, Legal Coordinator	Erin Reid, Chief Strategy Officer
Dorothy Myo, Senior Director of Policy and Research	Cassi Smith, Advisor to Chief Strategy Officer
Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer	

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Jessi Connaughton, Recording Secretary, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

AGENDA VARIED

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Glen McCallum called the meeting to order at approximately 10:03 a.m. after confirming that a quorum was present. It was noted that the meeting was being recorded and live-streamed.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Norman Fleury offered an Opening Prayer.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Related information: Agenda for the July 20, 2021, PMC meeting.

During discussion of the agenda, the following additions were requested and agreed to by the mover and seconder:

- Item 4: Roll Call
- Item 10.1: Batoche
- Item 10.2: Les Filles de Madeleine.

Main Motion:

It was MOVED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)

That the Agenda for the July 20, 2021, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council meeting be adopted as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer – Elder Norman Fleury
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Roll Call
5. Review of the Minutes:
 - 5.1 Approval of the June 18, 2021, Minutes
 - 5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes
6. Legal Updates – Tom Isaac, Cassels Brock and Blackwell LLP
 - 6.1 Self-Government
 - 6.2 Northwest Land Claims
 - 6.3 Île-à-la-Crosse Boarding School
7. Resolutions:
 - 7.1 Affirming the Collective Responsibility of the Provincial Métis Council
 - 7.2 Affirming Regional Council Protocols
 - 7.3 Approve Funding for Provincial Métis Youth Council Election
8. MN-S Government Officials
9. Ministerial Assignments – President McCallum
10. Other Business
 - 10.1 Batoche
 - 10.2 Les Filles de Madeleine
11. Conclusion and Closing Prayer.

Amendment to the Main Motion:

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

That the agenda be amended to consider Item 6 “Legal Updates” during an in-camera session.

CARRIED

Question on the Main Motion as amended:

The question was called on the main motion as amended, and it was

CARRIED (210720-01)

4. ROLL CALL

A Roll Call was conducted to confirm the presence of PMC members.

5. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Approval of the June 18, 2021, PMC Minutes

Related information: Draft Minutes of the June 18, 2021, PMC Regular Meeting

It was MOVED (Lisa McCallum) and SECONDED (Loretta King)

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

CARRIED (210720-02)

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

That the Minutes of the June 18, 2021, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting be approved, with the following amendments:

- Correct the spelling of “Kathie Pruden Nansel” throughout the minutes;
- Resolution 210618-02: Correct the numbering of agenda items;
- Resolution 210618-05: Brent Digness voted in favour of the resolution and will be removed as voting in opposition; and
- Resolution 210618-07: Tim Roussin voted in favour of the resolution and will be removed as voting in opposition.

CARRIED (210720-03)

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

This item was not considered.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned to an in-camera session at approximately 10:45 a.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

The regular meeting reconvened at approximately 1:20 p.m.

Introduction of Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte

President McCallum introduced Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte, Prince Albert Grand Council. The Grand Chief thanked President McCallum for the introduction, and offered congratulations to elected officials of the PMC. Additional comments were provided on the negotiation of fishing rights, lands, resource and revenue sharing, and the importance of working in solidarity as Indigenous people.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned to an in-camera session at approximately 1:30 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

The regular meeting reconvened at approximately 2:00 p.m.

6. LEGAL UPDATE

6.1 Self-Government

This item was considered earlier during the in-camera session.

6.2 North West Land Claim

This item was considered earlier during the in-camera session.

6.3 Île-à-la-Crosse Boarding School

Further to discussion in the earlier in-camera session, the following motion was presented for consideration:

It was MOVED (Lisa McCallum) and SECONDED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) is the exclusive representative government of all Metis of Saskatchewan;

WHEREAS MN-S government has established a Ministerial office and portfolio dedicated to advancing the rights and interests of Métis survivors of residential school who have been unjustly excluded from recognition by both the provincial and federal governments; and

WHEREAS MN-S desires to pursue federal funding to establish a Commission to promote education and recognition of the harms sustained by Métis survivors of residential school, to make meaningful recommendations to advance reconciliation and to address the inter-generational trauma sustained by their families.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Métis Council approves of the establishment of a Commission whose mandate will be to, *inter alia*:

- document the history of Métis students in Saskatchewan in day schools, industrial schools and residential schools to better understand the experience of Métis students, including historic injustices;
- build on the work of the residential school survivors of Île-à-la-Crosse and elsewhere by including all former residential students and schools in Saskatchewan;
- examine the roles of the Government of Saskatchewan, the Government of Canada, and the churches in the administration of the schools;
- provide an opportunity for residential school survivors and families to preserve their stories and to ensure that their voices will be heard;
- provide meaningful and accessible support to survivors and their families in their healing journeys;
- research and document the stories of our lost Métis children who attended schools, including the identification of gravesites for those children who did not return home; and
- develop a Terms of Reference for the Commission, which addresses areas left unexplored by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission mandate with regards to Métis people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission will consult with an Advisory Committee that consists of survivors and their families, who will inform and guide the work of the Commission – to ensure forward progress of the work done to date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MN-S shall pursue funding to establish the Commission and implement its mandate.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (210720-04)

7. RESOLUTIONS

7.1 Affirm the Collective Responsibility of the Provincial Métis Council

Vice President LeClair confirmed that this item was considered at the June 18, 2021, PMC meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

It was MOVED (Kathie Pruden Nansell) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council meeting adjourn to an in-camera session.

CARRIED (210720-05)

(Time: 2:25 p.m.)

MEETING RECONVENED

The regular PMC meeting reconvened at approximately 3:30 p.m.

7.2 Affirm Regional Council Protocols

Related information: Draft “Resolution to Affirm Regional Council Protocols”, labelled “For Internal Purposes and Not for Distribution” and dated July 20, 2021

Further to discussion in the earlier in-camera session, the following motion was presented for consideration:

It was MOVED (Sherry McLennan) and SECONDED (Billy Kennedy)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) utilizes a consensus-based model for governance;

WHEREAS the Regional Representatives of the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) serve as Chairpersons of the Regional Councils of the Regions for which they were elected;

WHEREAS the Regional Councils provide guidance to their representatives on the PMC with respect to matters affecting the MN-S and their respective Region, in accordance with Article 5.2 of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan*;

WHEREAS the members of the PMC, in conducting the affairs of the MN-S, are bound by principles of solidarity, confidentiality and collective responsibility; and

WHEREAS the PMC is possessed with the responsibility to ensure that the laws, protocols and processes of the MN-S are respected.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, in the interests of solidarity, confidentiality and collective responsibility, that Regional Representatives shall be the first point of contact for the Regional Councils and governing members of the Regional Councils.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member of the PMC or the Executive will meet or deal with any governing member of a Regional Council in any official capacity, without providing proper advance notice to the relevant Regional Representative for that Region.

CARRIED (210720-06)

7.3 Approve Funding for Provincial Métis Youth Council Election

Related information: Draft “Resolution to Approve Funding for Provincial Métis Youth Council Election”, labelled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution” and dated July 20, 2021

During review of the resolution, it was noted that “to a maximum of \$50,000.00” was added after the resolution in writing was distributed, and the addition was agreed to by the mover and seconder.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Jaycee Bell)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC) supports efforts of the Provincial Métis Youth Council to hold democratic, transparent and accessible elections for its youth members; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Métis Youth Council intends to hold a province-wide, online election in Fall 2021.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC approves funding for the Provincial Métis Youth Council election, including the hiring of a Chief Electoral Officer, creation of a youth voters list and costs associated with holding a professionally-run online, province-wide election to a maximum of \$50,000.00.

CARRIED (210720-07)

8. MN-S GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Related information: Directory of MN-S Government Officials

The directory of MN-S Government Officials was provided on-table for information.

9. MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

President McCallum confirmed that Ministerial assignments were based on individual strengths and qualifications. He and the Vice President jointly presented a certificate to each of the Ministers, confirming their appointments as follows:

- Child and Family Services: Kathie Pruden Nansel
- Culture and Heritage: Sherry McLennan
- Early Learning and Childcare/Education: Tim Roussin
- Economic Development: President Glen McCallum
- Environment: Mervin “Tex” Bouvier
- Finance: Marg Friesen
- Health: Marg Friesen (assigned for a six-month term)

- Housing: Ryan Carriere
- Inter-Nation Relations: President Glen McCallum and Vice President Michelle LeClair
- Justice: Vice President Michelle LeClair
- Language: Laura Burnouf
- Post-Secondary Education and Skills Development: Leonard Montgrand
- Sports: Billy Kennedy
- Tourism: Brent Digness
- Veterans: Wendy Gervais
- Women and Gender Equality: Loretta King
- Youth: Jaycee Bell.

Ministers were provided with a Ministerial Transition Binder, and informed that mandate letters would be distributed at the August 2021 MN-S retreat.

6. LEGAL UPDATE (Continued)

6.1 Self-Government

Further to discussion in an earlier in-camera session, the following motion was presented for consideration.

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

WHEREAS the Metis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) is the exclusive representative government of all Metis of Saskatchewan;

WHEREAS MN-S and Canada executed a Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement (the “MGRSA”) on June 27, 2019, which among other things, affirmed MN-S as the exclusive representative and Section 35, Constitution Act, 1982, (S.35) government of all Metis of Saskatchewan;

WHEREAS on July 6, 2021, Canada and Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. executed the Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement (the “MMF Agreement”);

WHEREAS the MMF Agreement is fundamentally at odds with the MN-S MGRSA and with Canadian law;

WHEREAS Canada did not consult with MN-S in negotiating and concluding the MMF Agreement despite its clear potential impact on MN-S and its citizens; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Metis Council (PMC) desires to declare its collective opposition to Canada’s conduct in negotiating and concluding the MMF Agreement which is inconsistent with the MGRSA and the constitutional principle of the honour of the Crown.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC, as the Executive Branch and Cabinet of the MN-S, hereby affirms its collective responsibility to advance the rights and interests of all Metis of Saskatchewan, including those rights recognized and affirmed by S.35 of the Constitution of Canada.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PMC shall take all measures to prevent any government action that would purport to limit the MN-S’ jurisdiction and inherent rights of self-determination and self-government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PMC shall hold Canada accountable for all of the commitments set out in the MGRSA, its constitutional obligations and its common law obligations, including its obligation to uphold the honour of the Crown.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (210720-08)

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Batoche

Sherry McLennan, Minister of Culture and Heritage, informed that the Virtual Back to Batoche event was scheduled for July 22-25, 2021. A small, in-person Back to Batoche event may be held in September 2021, provided COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

10.2 Les Filles Des Madeline

Kathie Pruden Nansel, Minister of Child and Family Services, requested a timeframe for an election for Les Filles de Madeleine (LFDM). Additional comments were offered on:

- LFDM as a separate entity from the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality
- Following the same process as the Provincial Métis Youth Council election
- Concerns related to the exclusion of some Regions from LFDM
- Reviewing MN-S' financial obligations to LFDM through the constitutional reform process
- The *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* reference to the Métis Women of Saskatchewan; and the provision for a seat at the PMC, which would cease once Women achieve equitable representation at the table.

10.3 MN-S Retreat

Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer, informed that a retreat was being planned for the week of August 23, 2021. The retreat would include a Ministerial meeting with presentation of mandate letters, and the participation of Directors, Senior Administrative staff, Elders, Veterans and a Dumont's Scout. It was suggested that the August 17, 2021, PMC meeting be postponed to take place as part of the retreat.

It was MOVED (Loretta King) and SECONDED (Mervin "Tex" Bouvier)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) approve postponing the August 17, 2021 PMC meeting to the week of August 23, 2021, to coincide with the MN-S retreat.

CARRIED (210720-09)

11. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

Elder Norman Fleury offered a Closing Prayer.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council meeting held July 20, 2021, now conclude.

CARRIED (210720-10)

(Time: 5:10 p.m.)

LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were included in the July 20, 2021 meeting package:

1. Agenda for the MN-S Provincial Métis Council Regular Meeting scheduled July 20, 2021
2. Draft Minutes of the MN-S PMC Regular Meeting held June 18, 2021
3. Draft “Resolution to Affirm Regional Council Protocols”, labelled “For Internal Purposes and Not for Distribution” and dated July 20, 2021
4. Draft “Resolution to Approve Funding for Provincial Métis Youth Council Election”, labelled “For Internal Purposes and Not for Distribution” and dated July 20, 2021
5. Directory of MN-S Government Officials

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

LFDM	Les Filles de Madeleine
MN-S	Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council