



**MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN**  
**PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
*held June 18, 2021*

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Regular Meeting scheduled June 18, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the Dakota Dunes Resort, 203 Dakota Dunes Way, Whitecap, Saskatchewan.

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Elder Norman Fleury	Elder Max Morin
Tom Isaac, Cassels Brock and Blackwell LLP	Josh Morrison, MLT Aikens LLC
Felix Merasty, Dumont’s Scout	

**MN-S OFFICE:**

Janice Braden, Senior Policy Analyst	Riva Farrell Racette, Legal Counsel
Dorothy Myo, Senior Director of Policy and Research	Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer

**MINUTES PREPARED BY:**

Jessi Connaughton, Recording Secretary, Raincoast Ventures Ltd. *(from recording)*

**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 10:10 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 noted that Section 9 of the *Handbook for Executives, Ministers and Members of the Provincial Métis Council* (the “Handbook”) indicates the PMC meeting agendas are to be drafted by the Provincial Secretary in consultation with the Executive, and that meeting materials are to be distributed to PMC members at least five days before the meeting.

***Request for Action (RFA-210618-01)***

*It was requested that the minutes of the June 1, 2021 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Executive meeting attended by Vice President LeClair, Treasurer LaFontaine and Secretary McCallum be provided to all members of the Provincial Métis Council.*

**Point of Order**

In response to a point of order, it was noted that past practice at PMC meetings was to appoint the Recording Secretary prior to approving the meeting agenda.

**It was MOVED (Tammy Mah) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)**

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Raincoast Ventures Ltd. as Recording Secretary for its June 18, 2021 meeting.

**CARRIED (210618-01)**

**5. OPENING REMARKS – PRESIDENT MCCALLUM**

A round of self-introductions ensued, to welcome the newly elected officials to the PMC. The importance of working together as a unified government, with accountability to MN-S citizens was emphasized.

President McCallum congratulated PMC members on their recent election by MN-S citizens and offered comments on:

- The MN-S’ progress from a non-profit organization to a self-government
- The importance of working at the PMC table in solidarity and building trust through transparency and accountability to MN-S citizens
- The approval of the Handbook by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) with the intent to set accountability standards for the Executive, Ministers and PMC members
- Acknowledgement of past Métis leaders, who created the pathway for the MN-S to become a strong Indigenous government.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (Continued)**

During discussion on the agenda, it was requested that the agenda be amended to include the following, after Item 5 – “Opening Remarks – President Glen McCallum”:

- “Report from the June 1, 2021, Executive Meeting”
- “The Handbook for Executives, Ministers and Members of the PMC”.

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

That the Agenda for the June 18, 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 April 20, 2021 Minutes
  - 4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Opening Remarks – President Glen McCallum
6. Report from the MN-S Executive:
  - 6.1 Report from the June 1, 2021 Executive Meeting
  - 6.2 The Handbook for Executives, Ministers and Members of the PMC
7. Resolutions:
  - 7.1 Appointment of the Minister of Finance
  - 7.2 Appointment of Designated Signing Authorities
  - 7.3 Affirming the Collective Responsibility of the Provincial Métis Council
  - 7.4 Affirming the Calendar Schedule of the Provincial Métis Council
  - 7.5 Affirming Regional Council Protocols
8. Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Guidelines and Disclosure Form
9. Transition Binder 2021 – Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer
10. Self-Government Overview – Tom Isaac, Cassels Brock and Blackwell LLP
11. Other Business
12. Conclusion and Closing Prayer.

**CARRIED (210618-02)**

**4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Approval of the April 20, 2021 PMC Minutes**

*Related information: Draft Minutes of the April 20, 2021 PMC Regular Meeting*

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

**Point of Order**

In response to a point of order, it was confirmed that motions should be duly moved and seconded, before discussion on the motion ensues.

**It was MOVED (Michelle LeClair) and SECONDED (Wendy Gervais)**

That the Minutes of the April 20, 2021 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting be approved, with the following amendments:

- Resolution 210420-04: Marg Friesen and Sherry McLennan voted in favour of the resolution and will be removed as voting in opposition; and
- Resolution 210420-05: Brent Digness voted in favour of the resolution and will be removed as voting in opposition.

**CARRIED (210618-03)**

#### **4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes**

This item was not considered.

### **6. REPORT FROM THE MN-S EXECUTIVE**

#### **6.1 Report from the June 1, 2021 Executive Meeting**

Secretary McCallum reported that members of the Executive (Vice President LeClair, Treasurer LaFontaine and Secretary McCallum) met on June 1, 2021 to discuss the role of the Executive, as per the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* (the “Constitution”). President McCallum was unable to attend the meeting.

Secretary McCallum reviewed the following recommendations arising from the June 1, 2021 Executive meeting:

- That the Handbook be reviewed
- That the Executive meet on a more regular basis throughout the year
- That a Transition Team be assigned to assist with the integration of newly elected officials
- That a retreat be scheduled for the PMC to build unity and discuss pathways forward.

President McCallum recognized the importance of the PMC having governance training, and the regions working together effectively. It was confirmed that PMC members were requested to provide their resumes to assist in the Ministerial appointment process.

#### **Change in Chair**

President McCallum asked Vice President LeClair to assume the role as Chair at approximately 11:45 a.m.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Potential items for the PMC retreat agenda:
  - o Governance training, with procedures and protocols for conducting meetings
  - o Communications training
  - o A Healing Circle, supported by Elders
- Changes to the Constitution anticipated, as the MN-S transitions towards self-government
- The role of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and MN-S staff
- Human Resource policies established with protections for MN-S staff
- Including senior staff at the PMC retreat, given their integral role in transitioning the MN-S to self-government.

#### **Health Break**

The meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at approximately 1:00 p.m. President McCallum assumed the role as Chair.

#### **6.2 The Handbook for Executives, Ministers and Members of the PMC**

Vice President LeClair offered comments on the Handbook and suggested that consideration be given to the following:

- An independent legal review, to provide clarity on the expectations of conduct, responsibilities, breaches and disclosure requirements
- Including clear definitions of terms throughout the Handbook
- Seeking legal consultation prior to signing disclosure forms.

During discussion on a draft resolution presented to establish a technical committee to review the Handbook, comments were offered on:

- Consent to add a friendly amendment to state that the Handbook was a living document intended to provide foundational guidance on matters of good governance and protocol
- Requiring approval of any amendments to the Handbook at a MNLA
- Incorporating progressive and incremental disciplinary actions in the Handbook
- Including representation from the North, Central and Southern regions on the technical committee
- Financial implications of legal or disciplinary actions against a Minister, Executive or PMC member
- The Declaration of Assets, which only pertains to assets that could present a conflict for a Minister, Executive or PMC member while carrying out their fiduciary duties
- Options for enforcing the guidelines outlined in the Handbook
- Potentially including a review of the Handbook at the PMC retreat
- Obligations that the PMC were subject to, which are informed by Common Law (e.g. fiduciary duty, duty of care, duty of confidentiality, etc.).

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

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) is dedicated to collective governance based on procedures, protocols and practices grounded in good governance, accountability and transparency;

**WHEREAS** the *Handbook for Executives, Ministers and Members of the Provincial Métis Council* (“the Handbook”) is a living document intended to provide foundational guidance on matters of good governance and protocol;

**WHEREAS** the continued development of the MN-S government requires ongoing and continuous improvement and refinement to more perfectly achieve its vision of an open, transparent government for the benefit of the Métis people of Saskatchewan;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** at this meeting of June 18, 2021, that the PMC direct the MN-S Chief Executive Officer to establish a technical review committee to review the Handbook and develop recommendations for its continued refinement, improvement and enhancements to support good governance and sound process to support the work of the MN-S government;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the technical review committee be mandated to engage with members of the PMC, governance experts, and Elders to identify areas of concern and develop recommendations for the future consideration, deliberation and approval of the PMC.

**CARRIED (210618-04)**

**Change in Chair**

President McCallum asked Vice President LeClair to assume the role as Chair at approximately 2:30 p.m.

## **7. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

### **7.1 Appointment of the Minister of Finance**

*Related information: Draft “Resolution to Approve Appointment of Minister of Finance”, labelled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution” and dated June 18, 2021*

The draft resolution was read aloud. During discussion, comments were offered on:

- An understanding that the elected Treasurer was also the MN-S’ Minister of Finance
- The *Constitution’s* reference to designating “persons who may have signing authority for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the organization, which shall include the Treasurer”
- Marg Friesen’s experience on the Finance Committee, including:
  - o Administering Emergency COVID-19 funding as the Minister of Health
  - o Overseeing financial obligations in a transparent manner
- The prior appointment of Marg Friesen to the Finance Committee (without a motion)
- The Treasurer’s experience with the Provincial Métis Housing Corporation (PMHC), and his assertion that a Statement of Claim filed by the PMHC against him, included false information:
  - o As the Statement of Claim was “noted for default”, it was deemed an admission by the defendant, that all matters presented in the Statement of Claim were true
  - o The Statement of Claim was ruled to be “complete”
- Providing resolutions to the PMC in advance of future meetings, to support informed decision making.

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

**WHEREAS** Articles 2.4 and 4.4(b) of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* (“the *Constitution*”) confers upon the President the discretion to assign Ministerial portfolios, subject to the approval of the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) and ratification by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA);

**WHEREAS** Article 2.4 of the *Constitution* further mandates that the assignment of Ministerial portfolios is restricted to members of the MNLA;

**WHEREAS** financial capacity is critical to ensuring that services and programming remain accessible to Métis citizens through the transition of the newly elected members of the PMC;

**WHEREAS** the President has determined to assign on a priority basis, the Finance Portfolio to Marg Friesen, Regional Representative for Eastern Region 3;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the PMC at this meeting of June 18, 2021, hereby approves the assignment of Marg Friesen, Regional Director for Eastern Region 3, to the Finance Portfolio, to serve as the Minister of Finance for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.

**CARRIED (210618-05)**

*Wendy Gervais, Robert LaFontaine, Michelle LeClair and Lisa McCallum voted in opposition  
Jaycee Bell, Laura Burnouf, Ryan Carriere, Loretta King, Tammy Mah,  
Kathie Pruden Nansel and Tim Roussin abstained from the vote*

## **7.2 Appointment of Designated Signing Authorities**

*Related information: Draft “Resolution to Appoint Designated Signing Authorities”, labelled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution” and dated June 18, 2021*

The draft resolution was read aloud. It was clarified that MN-S’ governance documents did not require assigning a “primary signer”, as a one of its designated signing authorities.

### **It was MOVED (Billy Kennedy) and SECONDED (Brent Digness)**

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council directs that the MN-S’ banking-related documentation be signed by any two of the following designated signing authorities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the following authorities can act as designated signing authorities:

- Glen McCallum, President
- Robert LaFontaine, Treasurer
- Marg Friesen, Minister of Finance
- Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer
- Hamid Shahzad, Chief Financial Officer.

**CARRIED (210618-06)**

*Wendy Gervais voted in opposition*

*Lisa McCallum and Leonard Montgrand abstained from the vote*

## **7.3 Affirming the Collective Responsibility of the Provincial Métis Council**

*Related information: Draft “Resolution to Affirm the Collective Responsibility of the Provincial Métis Council”, labelled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution” and dated June 18, 2021*

The draft resolution was read aloud. During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Whether the resolution required constitutional amendments and MNLA approval
- The role of the PMC, which includes:
  - The PMC executes and administers policy developed by the MNLA
  - The Executive does not have decision making authority on its own; this authority lies with the PMC as a whole
  - The PMC can discharge responsibility and delegate authority to different Ministers
- The role of the Executive as defined in the *Constitution*, to fit a non-profit model
- The intent of the resolution to provide clarity for the governance structure of the MN-S.

A friendly amendment to the draft resolution was proposed to indicate that “as the Executive Branch of the MN-S, the PMC confirms its collective responsibility and commits that all decisions must be approved by a 75% majority of members”. The Mover and Secunder of the resolution did not consent to the proposed friendly amendment.

### **Point of Order**

In response to a point of order requesting that the resolution be tabled to the next PMC meeting, the Mover and Secunder did not consent to postponing its consideration.

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

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (“MN-S” and/or the “Nation”) utilizes a consensus based model for governance that is grounded on the principles of solidarity and collective responsibility;

**WHEREAS** the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* (“the *Constitution*”) is the voice and deepest expression of the Nation’s values, identity and rights as a self-governing Métis Nation;

**WHEREAS** the *Constitution* establishes the foundation for good governance and sets the expectations, requirements and conduct of government in a manner that benefits the entire Nation;

**WHEREAS** the *Constitution* establishes two branches of government, the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch, which are the contemporary expressions of our governing structures;

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly is expressly identified in the *Constitution* as the governing authority and is given powers as the Legislative Branch to enact legislation and ratify decisions;

**WHEREAS** the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) is expressly identified in the *Constitution* as the Cabinet and is given powers as the Executive Branch to administer and implement the policy of MN-S.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** at this meeting of June 18, 2021, that the PMC confirms its collective responsibility as the Executive Branch of the MN-S government and commits to fulfilling its decision-making role in a manner consistent with the intent of the *Constitution*.

**CARRIED (210618-07)**

*Wendy Gervais, Robert LaFontaine, Michelle LeClair  
and Lisa McCallum voted in opposition  
Tammy Mah abstained from the vote*



**7.4 Affirming the Calendar Schedule of the Provincial Métis Council**

*Related information: Draft “Resolution Affirming Calendar Schedule of the Provincial Métis Council Meetings”, labelled “For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution” and dated June 18, 2021*

**It was MOVED (Leonard Montgrand) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)**

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) at its duly convened meeting on December 11, 2020, resolved to establish a calendar schedule to promote efficient planning and preparation;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the PMC at this meeting of June 18, 2021, shall adhere to the following schedule for 2021 meetings of the PMC, as established:

January 19 (completed)	July 20
February 16 (completed)	August 17
March 16 (completed)	September 21
April 20 (completed)	October 19
May 18 (suspended for election)	November 16
June 18	December 14

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any and all PMC meeting materials and decision items distributed to members of PMC and MN-S administration shall be protected by the rule of confidentiality in order to uphold the principle of Métis government solidarity and collective responsibility.

**CARRIED (210618-08)**

**7.5 Affirming Regional Council Protocols**

Due to time constraints, this item was not addressed.

**8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF GUIDELINES AND DISCLOSURE FORM**

Due to time constraints, this item was not addressed.

**9. TRANSITION BINDER 2021**

Due to time constraints, this item was not addressed.

**10. SELF GOVERNMENT OVERVIEW**

Due to time constraints, this item was not addressed.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

**12. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER**

The meeting concluded at approximately 4:50 p.m. with a Closing Prayer offered by Elder Fleury.

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**LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS**

*The following items were included in the June 18, 2021 meeting package:*

1. Agenda for the MN-S Provincial Métis Council Regular Meeting scheduled June 18, 2021
2. Draft Minutes of the MN-S PMC Regular Meeting held April 20, 2021
3. Draft “Resolution to Approve Appointment of Minister of Finance”, labelled “For Internal Purposes and Not for Distribution” and dated June 18, 2021
4. Draft “Resolution to Appoint Designated Signing Authorities”, labelled “For Internal Purposes and Not for Distribution” and dated June 18, 2021
5. Draft “Resolution to Affirm the Collective Responsibility Of The Provincial Métis Council”, labelled “For Internal Purposes and Not for Distribution” and dated June 18, 2021
6. Draft “Resolution Affirming Calendar Schedule of Provincial Métis Council Meetings”, labelled “For Internal Purposes and Not for Distribution” and dated June 18, 2021
7. Draft “Resolution to Affirm Regional Council Protocols”, labelled “For Internal Purposes and Not for Distribution” and dated June 18, 2021

**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

*The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:*

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
MN-S	Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council
PMHC	Provincial Métis Housing Corporation
MNLA	Métis Nation Legislative Assembly