



MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
held March 16, 2021

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Regular Meeting held March 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. via videoconference.

PRESENT:

Gerald Morin, Vice-President, Chair	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	Derek Langan, Eastern Region 2A
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region 3	Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2
Brent Digness, Eastern Region 2	Tammy Mah, Les Filles des Madelaine
Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3	Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2
Wendy Gervais, Western Region 3	

ABSENT:

Glen McCallum, President	Ryan Carriere, Eastern Region 1
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ALSO PRESENT:

Elder Norman Fleury	Tristan Zachow, SaskMétis Development Corporation
Claire Letendre, Bang Up Productions	

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
Lisa Fleming, Director, Early Learning and Child Care / Child and Family Services	Riva Racette, Legal Counsel
Brandy Laronde, Office Manager	Erin Reid, Chief Strategy Officer
Lillian Lizee, Interim Senior Advisor	Lori Skjeie, Director, Language and Culture
	Duane Tinker, Policy Advisor
	Tammy Vallee, Registrar

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Carrie Peacock, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Gerald Morin, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. and confirmed that a quorum was present.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Norman Fleury offered an Opening Prayer.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Raincoast Ventures Ltd. as Recording Secretary for its March 16, 2021 meeting.

CARRIED (210316-01)

It was agreed that the Agenda be amended to include a discussion on “Métis Women of Saskatchewan / Les Filles de Madelaine”.

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

That the Agenda for the March 16, 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 February 16, 2021 Minutes
 - 4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Resolution:
 - 5.1 Proposed Expansion of the Michif and Dene Early Learning Pilot Project
6. Election 2021 Update
7. Citizen Registry Update
8. Economic Development – SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation
9. Métis Women of Saskatchewan / Les Filles de Madelaine
10. Other Business
11. Closing Prayer.

CARRIED (210316-02)

4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Approval of the February 16, 2021 PMC Minutes

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

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

It was MOVED (Penny Hurton) and SECONDED (Marg Friesen)

That the Minutes of the February 16, 2021 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting be approved, as presented.

CARRIED (210316-03)

4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

No items were discussed.

5. RESOLUTIONS

5.1 Proposed Expansion of the Michif and Dene Early Learning Pilot Project

Related information:

- *Briefing Note on “Proposed Expansion of the Michif and Dene Early Learning Project”, dated March 14, 2021*
- *Draft “Resolution to Expand the Michif and Dene Early Learning Pilot Project”, labelled “For Internal Purposes and Not For Distribution” and dated March 16, 2021*

Lisa Fleming, Director, Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) / Child and Family Services, reviewed the information provided and offered additional comments on:

- The proposal to expand the Michif and Dene Early Learning Program Pilot Project from six school divisions in Phase One to ten school divisions in Phase Two
- The additional proposed school divisions:
 - o Prairie Valley School Division (the area surrounding Regina)
 - o Prairie Spirit School Division (the area surrounding Saskatoon)
 - o Saskatchewan Rivers School Division (Prince Albert and area)
 - o Prince Albert Catholic School Divisions.

9:20 a.m.

Tammy Mah arrived at the meeting.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Cost implications of adding another school division in Phase Two, estimated at \$200,000 (to accommodate costs related to the teacher, language keeper, additional resources etc.)
- Potentially expanding the program further to include school divisions within each region
- Funding negotiated with the federal government for ELCC programming (\$9.7 million per year)

9:30 a.m.

Derek Langan arrived at the meeting.

- Benefits of offering the pilot program first, to gain a better understanding of the successes and challenges that may arise
- The initial two phases of the pilot program, focussed on:
 - o Offering the program in a limited number of school divisions
 - o Providing classes for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students only
- The subsequent phases of the pilot program (with additional funding), focussed on:
 - o Further expanding the program to include additional school divisions
 - o Providing immersion classes for grades beyond kindergarten.

Request for Action

It was requested that the Director of Early Learning and Child Care / Child and Family Services provide for the March 16, 2021, Provincial Métis Council meeting, the number of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students in the Michif and Dene Early Learning Pilot Project, from the Regina public and Catholic schools divisions, along with an indication of how many students are Métis.

9:50 a.m.

Earl Cook arrived at the meeting.

During continued discussion, comments were offered on:

- Utilizing resources and materials from the Gabriel Dumont Institute in the program
- Enabling each participating school division to determine which Michif dialect to teach, based on the community's needs.

Change in Chair

Vice President Morin left the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Secretary McCallum assumed the Chair pending his return.

Discussion ensued on the proposed resolution. The Mover and Seconder agreed to a friendly amendment to add the NW School Division and to adjust the budget accordingly to reflect the resulting cost implications.

Change in Chair

Vice President Morin rejoined the meeting at 10:10 a.m. and assumed the Chair.

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

WHEREAS the future of Michif and Dene language will be strengthened with early language programming in a high-quality learning environment;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) currently supports Michif and Dene early learning programming in six school divisions for more than 130 Métis children and their families;

WHEREAS expanding this project to four additional school divisions will provide more Métis children the opportunity to learn their language and Métis identity;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) has recommended to the MN-S Provincial Métis Council (PMC) at this meeting of March 16, 2021, that the Michif and Dene Early Learning Pilot Project be extended for the school years 2021-22; 2022-23 and 2023-24; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of ELCC has further recommended that the Michif and Dene Early Learning Pilot Project be expanded to include five additional school divisions at this meeting of March 16, 2021;

BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC approves of the extension of the Michif and Dene Early Learning Pilot Project for the school years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, in accordance with the following funding allocations, as proposed at this meeting of March 16, 2021:

- a) \$2,200,000 for the 2021-22 school year;
- b) \$1,540,000 for the 2022-23 school year; and
- c) \$1,100,000 for the 2023-24 school year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PMC approves of the expansion of the Michif and Dene Early Learning Pilot Project to encompass the Prairie Valley School Division, Prairie Spirit School Division, Saskatchewan Rivers School Division, Prince Albert Catholic School Division, and NW School Division; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PMC authorizes the Ministry of ELCC to establish partnership agreements with the aforesaid school divisions to be part of the project.

CARRIED (210316-04)

Brent Digness, Wendy Gervais, Derek Langan, Lisa McCallum, Tammy Mah and Leonard Montgrand voted in opposition

It was MOVED (Leonard Montgrand) and SECONDED (Derek Langan)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) directs that the MN-S' Early Learning and Child Care Department develop a plan for transitioning the Michif and Dene Early Learning Pilot Project into a full MN-S program, that can be implemented equitably across the province.

CARRIED (210316-05)

Health Break

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

6. ELECTION 2021 UPDATE

Related information: "Update for the PMC" from Gwen LaFond, Chief Electoral Officer, dated March 11, 2021

Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer, confirmed that the MN-S Election Website¹ was now active. Any questions specific to the election process should be directed to the Chief Electoral Officer at info@mnselections.ca.

It was further noted that:

- Prior to the writ being dropped on April 29, 2021, PMC members were required to prepare a binder, documenting their region's activities and financial information
- After the writ is dropped on April 29, 2021:
 - o PMC members cannot access the MN-S office
 - o PMC members cannot utilize MN-S funds or activities for campaigning activities
 - o Staff supporting the regions or Registry will report to the Registry
 - o Political staff hired in the regions will need to be laid off
- Any staff supporting election candidates cannot also be working in a regional office
- The Chief Electoral Officer will provide candidates with a list of eligible voters who will be at least 16 years of age on election day.

¹ MN-S Election Website <https://mnselection.ca>

It was MOVED (Tammy Mah) and SECONDED (Wendy Gervais)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council confirms the following appointments for the 2021 MN-S Elections process: Allan Brabant as Adjudicator; and Marilyn Poitras as Complaints Officer.

CARRIED (210316-06)

Marg Friesen and Sherry McLennan voted in opposition

7. CITIZEN REGISTRY UPDATE

Tammy Vallee, Registrar, provided an update on activities of the Registry office and offered comments on:

- The number of eligible voters aged 16 and older on May 28, 2021 (currently 12,015); an additional 3,297 people have applications in the review process
- Providing a list of eligible registered voters (printed on security paper) to the Chief Electoral Officer to assist in verifying candidates' eligibility
- Sending letters (printed on security paper) to the over 3,000 individuals in the application process, confirming their eligibility to vote; copies will not be accepted at polling stations
- Applications processed since January 2021 (currently 1,631) and additional applications waiting to be entered into the system (approximately 400)
- The partial re-opening of the Registry office for in-person appointments to assist with citizenship applications at select locations only
- A new phone system launched to improve access to the Registry office
- Directing questions related to eligibility to vote in the election to the Registry office
- Citizenship registry photo regulations, posted on the MN-S Citizenship website².

Change in Chair

Vice President Morin left the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Secretary McCallum assumed the Chair.

8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Richard Quintal acknowledged the Finance Committee's consideration of a proposal to provide base funding to SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation (SMEDCO) to act as the MN-S' dedicated economic development office.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Achievements negotiated with the government, including funding to establish internal structures
- SMEDCO's current core function, focussed on developmental lending for Métis businesses
- Benefits of initiating economic development activities, which could include:
 - o Establishing a directory that Métis businesses can use to promote themselves
 - o Initiating a Métis business certification process
 - o Building relationships to strengthen economic development opportunities
- An update being prepared on how the Economic Development Capacity Funds were utilized.

² MN-S Citizenship Registry Information. <http://metisnationsk.com/citizenship/>

It was MOVED (Earl Cook) and SECONDED (Leonard Montgrand)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council allocate \$750,000 to SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation (SMEDCO) as base funding to establish an internal structure to enable SMEDCO to function as the MN-S' Economic Development Office.

CARRIED (210316-07)

*Wendy Gervais voted in opposition
Derek Langan abstained from the vote*

9. MÉTIS WOMEN OF SASKATCHEWAN / LES FILLES DE MADELEINE (LFDM)

Marg Friesen, Minister of Health, acknowledged provincial restrictions and a moratorium imposed by the MN-S on in-person meetings and unnecessary travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Clarification was requested on the intent of a LFDM in-person meeting, which was scheduled on March 28-29, 2021.

Tammy Mah, President, LFDM, offered comments regarding:

- Changes to the provincial restrictions, which now enabled up to ten people to meet in-person
- The meeting's intent to discuss a process for electing LFDM leadership, with equal representation from each region (referenced at the June 25-26, 2017 PMC Meeting); regional reports were also expected at the meeting on how COVID-19 funding was utilized.

During discussion, additional comments were offered on the need to ensure a transparent and equitable process for Métis women to be involved in electing LFDM leadership. The LFDM was encouraged to meet via videoconference and to ensure that women have fair access to register.

Request for Action

It was requested that Les Filles de Madelaine (LFDM) change its March 28-29, 2021 in-person meeting to a videoconference, where a transparent and equitable process for Métis women to be involved in electing LFDM leadership can be determined, and subsequently presented at the March 16, 2021, Provincial Métis Council meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 MN-S Secretary's Communications

A Regional Director advised the MN-S Secretary to immediately refrain from contacting executive members of a Local in Eastern Region 2.

9.2 Next PMC Meeting

The meeting was reminded that the next PMC Meeting was scheduled March 16, 2021.

Secretary McCallum suggested the March 16, 2021 agenda include updates on the following:

- The 2021 MN-S Election Process, including:
 - o Details that can be shared and posted online (including campaign rules, what happens when the writ drops, and where to seek information on ballot box locations)
 - o Confirmation of the Adjudicator and the Complaints Officer
- Leadership Election Process for the Provincial Métis Youth Council
- Leadership Election Process for the Métis Women of Saskatchewan / Les Filles de Madelaine

- The Michif and Dene Early Learning Pilot Project:
 - o Enrollment of Métis students in the Regina Public and Catholic Schools Systems in kindergarten and pre-kindergarten
 - o Plans for transitioning the Michif and Dene Early Learning Pilot Project to a full MN-S program.

10. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting concluded at approximately 12:15 p.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 March 16, 2021 meeting:

1. Agenda for the MN-S Provincial Métis Council Regular Meeting scheduled March 16, 2021
2. Draft Minutes of the MN-S PMC Regular Meeting held February 16, 2021
3. Briefing Note on the “Proposed Expansion of the Michif and Dene Early Learning Project”, dated March 14, 2021
4. Draft “Resolution to Expand the Michif and Dene Early Learning Pilot Project”, labelled “For Internal Purposes and Not For Distribution” and dated March 16, 2021
5. “Update for the PMC” from Gwen LaFond, Chief Electoral Officer, dated March 11, 2021.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
ELCC	Early Learning and Child Care
LFDM	Les Filles de Madelaine
MNLA	Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
MN-S	Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council
SMEDCO	SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation