



**MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**
held September 21, 2021

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Regular Meeting scheduled September 21, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. by videoconference.

PRESENT:

Glen McCallum, President	Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3
Michelle LeClair, Vice President, Chair	Wendy Gervais, Western Region 3
Robert LaFontaine, Treasurer	Loretta King, Western Region 1
Lisa McCallum, Secretary	Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2
Laura Burnouf, Northern Region 1	Tammy Mah, Les Filles de 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

MN-S OFFICE:

Janice Braden, Senior Policy Analyst	Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer
Mark Calette, Senior Director of Duty to Consult and Land Claims	Riva Racette, Legal Counsel
Lisa Fleming, Director of ELCC / CFS	Erin Reid, Chief Strategy Officer
Christena Konrad, Director of Housing	Susan Shacter
Brandy Laronde, Legislative Coordinator	Lori Skjeie, Director of Culture and Language
Dorothy Myo, Senior Director of Policy and Research	Cassi Smith, Advisor to Chief Strategy Officer
	Duane Tinker, Director of Administration

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Carrie Peacock, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:10 a.m. after quorum was confirmed.

2. ROLL CALL

A roll call confirmed PMC members in attendance.

3. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Norman Fleury offered an Opening Prayer.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Related information: Draft Agenda for the September 21, 2021, PMC Meeting

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Tammy Mah)

That the Agenda for the September 21, 2021, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC) meeting be adopted, as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Opening Prayer
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Appointing the Recording Secretary
6. Review of the Minutes:
 - 6.1 Approval of the August 17, 2021 Minutes
 - 6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes
7. Resolutions:
 - 7.1 Métis Homelessness Strategy
 - 7.2 Confidentiality Issues and the PMC
 - 7.3 Conflicts with External Organizations
8. Finance Update
9. Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC) – Election
10. Residential School Commission – Terms of Reference
11. Other Business:
 - 11.1 Health and COVID-19 Updates
 - 11.2 Métis National Council (MNC) – Election and Assembly
 - 11.3 Batoche Fall Festival
 - 11.4 Métis Women of Saskatchewan – Election
12. Conclusion and Closing Prayer.

CARRIED (210921-01)

5. APPOINTING THE RECORDING SECRETARY

It was MOVED (Kathie Pruden Nansel) and SECONDED (Loretta King)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Carrie Peacock as Recording Secretary for its September 21, 2021 meeting.

CARRIED (210921-02)

6. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

6.1 Approval of the August 17, 2021, PMC Minutes

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Minutes of the August 17, 2021, PMC Meeting

Provincial Secretary McCallum read aloud the resolutions included in the draft minutes.

6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

During discussion on the August 17, 2021 PMC Meeting, comments were offered on:

- The agenda item "Northern Region 3", which was postponed due to time constraints:
 - o Clarification was requested on whether capacity and supports were provided to Locals to help them address priorities as they arise (e.g. related to harvesting, etc.):
 - Locals receive some funding each year to hold meetings; Local Presidents were equipped to stay virtually connected with their members
 - MN-S staff's role includes ensuring MN-S programs and services are implemented
 - Constitutional Reform discussions will provide opportunities to gather information from citizens across the province
- Potentially re-scheduling the PMC Retreat to October 27 or 28, 2021 in Elk Ridge, Saskatchewan.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Tim Roussin)

That the Minutes of the August 17, 2021 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED (210921-03)

7. RESOLUTIONS

7.1 Métis Homelessness Strategy

Related information (provided with the agenda):

- Draft "Resolution to Approve the Métis Homelessness Strategy and Budget", labeled "For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution" and dated September 20, 2021
- Briefing Note on the "MN-S Homelessness Strategy", dated September 20, 2021
- "Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Homelessness Strategy: Reaching Home Program Version 1.0", dated August 2021
- Presentation titled, "Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Homelessness Strategy"

Christena Konrad, Director of Housing, reviewed the information provided on the Homelessness Strategy and commented on:

- Key objectives of the program, including connecting vulnerable Métis citizens in Saskatchewan to existing housing and support services available
- The intended delivery model for the program, including:
 - o Hiring staff as required to support citizens who need access to services
 - o Training staff to teach Rental Education, Basic Home Maintenance and Personal Budgeting
 - o Expanding available services, including:
 - Allocating funds to continue the Medical Transport Program
 - Creating a "Rent Bank" providing citizens with access to funds to cover rental arrears
 - Providing emergency access to food, housing set-up costs, etc.
 - Supporting those reintegrating from the provincial and federal justice systems
 - Coordinating with existing homelessness efforts and services across the province
 - o The four-year budget plan.

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

- The Homelessness Strategy is a community initiative, that will ensure there are staff across the province, with access to a list of programs and services available
- The Housing Ministry will allocate the program funding as needed, across the province.

It was MOVED (Ryan Carriere) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) recognizes that homelessness afflicts many of our citizens, limiting their ability to participate fully in society and fulfill their personal potential;

WHEREAS the MN-S is committed to reducing and, where possible, eliminating homelessness among our citizens by building a comprehensive housing and homelessness strategy and programming;

WHEREAS the MN-S has entered into an agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada to address homelessness with a plan to administer a four (4) year Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy Métis Distinction-Based Funding Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) approves the "MN-S Homelessness Strategy: Reaching Home", as presented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PMC approves a four (4) year budget for expenditures on the strategy totalling \$4,838,616, allocated as follows:

- \$891,000 for fiscal year end 2021;
- \$1,315,872 for fiscal year end 2022;
- \$1,315,872 for fiscal year end 2023; and
- \$1,315,872 for fiscal year end 2024.

CARRIED (210921-04)

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 10:55 a.m. and reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

Change in Chair

Secretary McCallum assumed the role of Chair at 11:10 a.m. for consideration of Item 7.2.

7.2 Confidentiality Issues and the PMC

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft "Resolution Prohibiting the Disclosure of Proprietary and Confidential Information", labeled "For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution" and dated September 21, 2021

Vice President LeClair expressed concerns related to the recent release of confidential PMC communications, constituting a breach of PMC members' oaths of office and fiduciary duties. Discussion ensued on initiating an internal investigation into the confidentiality breach and considering disciplinary action, which may include suspension from the PMC for a period of time.

Request for Action (RFA-210921-01)

It was requested that the next Provincial Métis Council (PMC) meeting receive the terms of reference, membership list and a progress update from the Technical Review Committee, which was established by the PMC on June 18, 2021 to review the "MN-S Handbook for Executives, Ministers and Members of the Provincial Métis Council".

It was MOVED (Michelle LeClair) and SECONDED (Marg Friesen)

WHEREAS the Provincial Métis Council (PMC), at its duly convened meeting on June 18, 2021, passed a resolution affirming the importance of having a model for governance that is grounded on the principles of solidarity and collective responsibility;

WHEREAS the elected members of the PMC form the Cabinet of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) government and make decisions affecting the rights and interests of the MN-S and its citizens;

WHEREAS members of the PMC have access to proprietary, classified, confidential and privileged information, which if disclosed to third parties could harm MN-S' rights and interests;

WHEREAS members of the PMC owe fiduciary duties of loyalty and good faith and are obligated to protect confidential information as part of those fiduciary duties; and

WHEREAS internal communications of the PMC were shared with an external third party on or about September 2, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The PMC, at this duly called meeting of September 21, 2021, desires to denounce and expressly prohibit the sharing and disclosure of MN-S' confidential information;
2. The disclosure of MN-S' confidential information constitutes a material breach of PMC members' oaths of office and fiduciary duties of loyalty, good faith and confidentiality;
3. Any member of the PMC who discloses confidential information is committing a seditious act and shall be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. Disciplinary action may include but is not limited to, the loss of Ministerial responsibilities, removal from internal committees and the matter being brought before the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA);
4. For the purposes of this resolution, "confidential information" means any information of a confidential nature which relates to the business and activities of the MN-S and its affiliates, including, without being limited to, the following:
 - a) information that is proprietary or sensitive in nature;
 - b) information that is identified, marked or communicated as "privileged" and/or "confidential";
 - c) information that is communicated for internal purposes;
 - d) documents, plans, and communications that are in draft form;
 - e) business and legal strategies, technical plans, personnel information, and related information;
 - f) information relating to and regarding clients, legal files, negotiations with third parties and/or customers and/or program beneficiaries of the MN-S and its affiliates; and
5. The PMC further directs that there be an internal investigation to determine the source of the unauthorized disclosure, that the logistics of the internal investigation be determined by the MN-S' Human Resource Committee, and that recommendations based upon the investigation findings be presented to the PMC for its consideration and deliberation.

CARRIED (210921-05)

Change in Chair

Vice President LeClair resumed the role as Chair at 12:05 p.m.

7.3 Conflicts with External Organizations

Discussion ensued on the potential impacts of external agencies and organizations, that may seek to support or engage with Métis citizens and communities in Saskatchewan.

In response to questions raised, it was acknowledged that:

- It is the MN-S' role to represent the province's Métis citizens
- The MNLA's role as governing authority of the MN-S is to enact legislation, regulation, rules and resolutions governing the affairs and conduct of Métis in Saskatchewan
- Judicial Review Committee meetings may resume, when pandemic restrictions allow.

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

8. FINANCE UPDATE

Marg Friesen, Minister of Finance, provided a "Finance Update" and commented on:

- Audit processes initiated by all MN-S Regions
- Releasing Regional capacity funding (for the first and second quarters of 2021) within the next two weeks, to enable Regions to manage their operational and other costs; some Regions were still in the process of completing their audits
- Preparation of a Ministry of Finance communication, outlining who can access temporary COVID-19 relief support funding
- The draft MN-S Budget, which will be presented to the PMC prior to its implementation
- Streamlining internal processes and financial controls to continue to support transparency
- Progress on a policy being developed for MN-S' contractors and consultants
- Including "Finance Update" as a regular item on PMC meeting agendas; a balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statements can be provided, at least quarterly.

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

- MN-S staff monitor the internal controls of the MN-S; an external contractor has been retained to ensure the Region's audits occur simultaneously
- The MN-S is obliged to report back on how funding the MN-S receives has been administered; similarly, Regions report back to the MN-S and Locals report back to their respective Region
- Operational budgets could be prepared prior to fiscal year-end, for approval by the Regional Councils, to help guide how funding received will be administered
- Some emergency COVID-19 supports may still be available upon request, for families in need (e.g. personal protective equipment, food hampers, accommodations for isolation)
- A report is being prepared on how the MN-S' COVID-19 Relief Funding was utilized.

It was MOVED (Leonard Montgrand) and SECONDED (Kathie Pruden Nansel)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC) accept the "Finance Update" presented to the PMC on September 21, 2021.

CARRIED (210921-06)

9. PROVINCIAL MÉTIS YOUTH COUNCIL (PMYC) ELECTION

Related information (provided with the agenda): Briefing note on the "Provincial Métis Youth Council Election", dated September 20, 2021

During discussion on the November 5 and 6, 2021 PMYC Election, comments were offered on:

- References in the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* to the inclusion of a PMYC representative on the PMC
- The PMC's July 20, 2021 approval of funding (Resolution #210720-07) for the PMYC election:
 - o Youth engagement and the allocation of resources could be considered post-election
 - o A Communications Strategy could help encourage youth involvement in the election.

It was MOVED (Robert LaFontaine) and SECONDED (Kathie Pruden Nansel)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council directs that the Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC) election be postponed (possibly to early in 2022), and in the interim that:

- A Youth Advisory Committee (led by the Minister of Youth) be established to engage with youth in all regions; and
- A communications strategy be prepared to encourage youth engagement and participation in the 2022 PMYC Council election.

MOTION DEFEATED

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

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council directs that further to the budget designated for the Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC) Election (in Resolution #210720-07), an additional \$50,000 be allocated for a communications strategy to engage youth involvement in the upcoming PMYC Council election.

CARRIED (210921-07)

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 3:25 p.m. and reconvened at 3:40 p.m.

10. RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL COMMISSION - TERMS OF REFERENCE

Related information (provided with the agenda):

- *Draft Terms of Reference for the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Residential School Commission*
- *Draft "Resolution Approving Terms of Reference", labeled "For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution" and dated September 21, 2021*

Vice President LeClair requested that this item be postponed to a future PMC meeting.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Health and COVID-19 Updates

Marg Friesen, Minister of Health, provided a "Health Update" and commented on:

- The MN-S' COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Draws (the "This Is Your Shot" campaign), which was initiated to encourage Métis citizens to get vaccinated:
 - o Prizes are available to citizens who are fully vaccinated prior to the draw deadlines
 - o To date, over 7,000 citizens have entered the draw
- Ensuring the Ministry of Health is informed of any scheduled gatherings or events.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- A MN-S staff vaccination policy being prepared for release on September 24, 2021, which will:
 - o Require staff to provide proof of vaccination by October 30, 2021, unless a letter from a medical professional confirms they are exempt (additional measures will be in effect)
 - o Provide staff with time-off during work hours to get vaccinated
- Potentially adapting the MN-S staff vaccination policy for MN-S elected officials to help to ensure a safe working environment
- The Saskatchewan Health Authority's (SHA) revised Public Health Order, which was based on the severity of the COVID-19 variants and the increased transmission rates.

It was MOVED (Leonard Montgrand) and SECONDED (Lisa McCallum)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council direct that a COVID-19 Task Force be established, with representatives from the Northern, Central and Southern regions.

CARRIED (210921-08)

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- The effectiveness of restrictions and protocols in place at the Batoche Fall Festival, including requiring proof of vaccination and temperature checks (rapid COVID-19 tests were given for anyone with an elevated temperature)
- COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions, which have delayed progress on some priorities
- Consideration of the legal implications of requiring MN-S staff to be vaccinated
- The Ministry of Health's restrictions on MN-S business travel, which:
 - o Intend to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission in Métis communities
 - o Are based on the increased rates of active COVID-19 cases reported by the SHA.

Request for Action (RFA-210921-02)

It was requested that the COVID-19 Task Force (to be appointed by the Minister of Health in accordance with Resolution #210921-08) develop a COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for the Provincial Métis Council's consideration, that is:

- *Applicable to both MN-S staff and elected officials; and*
- *In effect prior to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly in November 2021.*

11.2 Métis National Council (MNC) – Election and Assembly

Vice President LeClair requested that PMC members meet on the evening of September 28, 2021, prior to the MNC Assembly and Election on September 29-30, 2021.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- The SHA's new COVID-19 restrictions, which will require all attendees to wear masks
- Ensuring PMC members have the option to attend by videoconference
- Clarifying with MNC staff, that the MNC will arrange to:
 - o Require all attendees to provide proof of vaccination
 - o Provide temperature checks and rapid testing to keep all attendees safe.

11.3 Batoche Fall Festival

Sherry McLennan, Minister of Culture and Heritage, extended appreciation to those who helped support the success of the Batoche Fall Festival.

11.4 Métis Women of Saskatchewan - Elections

Consideration of this item was postponed.

12. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting concluded with a Closing Prayer offered by Elder Fleury.

It was MOVED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier)

That the September 21, 2021, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council meeting, now conclude.

CARRIED (210921-09)

(Time: 5:10 p.m.)

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LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were provided or considered at the September 21, 2021 PMC meeting:

1. Agenda for the September 21, 2021, MN-S Provincial Métis Council Regular Meeting
2. Draft Minutes of the August 17, 2021, MN-S PMC Regular Meeting
3. Draft "Resolution to Approve the Métis Homelessness Strategy and Budget", labeled "For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution" and dated September 20, 2021
4. Briefing Note on the "MN-S Homelessness Strategy", dated September 20, 2021
5. "Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Homelessness Strategy: Reaching Home Program Version 1.0", dated August 2021
6. Presentation titled, "Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Homelessness Strategy"
7. Draft "Resolution Prohibiting the Disclosure of Proprietary and Confidential Information", labeled "For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution" and dated September 21, 2021
8. Briefing note on the "Provincial Métis Youth Council Election", dated September 20, 2021
9. Draft Terms of Reference for the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Residential School Commission
10. Draft "Resolution Approving Terms of Reference [for the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Residential School Commission]", labeled "For Internal Purpose and Not for Distribution" and dated September 21, 2021.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

MNC	Métis National Council
MNLA	Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
MN-S	Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council
PMYC	Provincial Métis Youth Council
SHA	Saskatchewan Health Authority