



**MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING**

held March 28, 2020

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Emergency Meeting scheduled March 28, 2020 at 11:00 a.m., via teleconference.

PRESENT:

Glen McCallum, President, Chair
Gerald Morin, Vice-President
Earl Cook, Treasurer
Lisa McCallum, Secretary
Jaycee Bell, Youth Council
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region 3
Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3

Wendy Gervais, Western Region 3
Penny Hurton, Western Region 2A
Billy Kennedy, Western Region 1A
Loretta King, Western Region 1
Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2
Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2
Sherry Soll, Eastern Region 2

ALSO PRESENT:

Norman Fleury, Elder

MN-S OFFICE:

Julia Burns, Director of Communications
Lisa Fleming, Director, Early Learning and
Childcare / Child and Family Services
Brandy LaRonde, Office Manager

Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer
Erin Reid, Chief Strategy Officer
Louise Simard, Chief Operating Officer
Reina Sinclair, Director, Environment & Language

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Carrie Peacock, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

AGENDA VARIED

The order of the Agenda was varied throughout the meeting. Items are indicated in these minutes in the order in which they were considered.

NOTICE WAIVED

Before the meeting was called to order, it was confirmed that all PMC members had agreed (prior to or at the meeting) to waive the seven-day advance notice required for holding a PMC meeting.

1. OPENING REMARKS

President Glen McCallum called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Elder Norman Fleury offered an Opening Prayer.

It was MOVED (Gerald Morin) and SECONDED (Earl Cook)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) hereby waives the seven day advance notice required for holding a PMC meeting, as specified in Article 3.7 of the *MN-S Constitution*, for the purpose of holding an Emergency Meeting to address extraordinary and emergent matters related to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

CARRIED (200328-01)

The intent of the meeting was acknowledged, to discuss the allocation of funding to assist communities and citizens, in responding to the current state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was MOVED (Glen McCallum) and SECONDED (Gerald Morin)

That the agenda for the March 28, 2020 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Emergency Meeting, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED (200328-02)

It was MOVED (Glen McCallum) and SECONDED (Gerald Morin)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council appoints Marg Friesen, Minister of Health, as Chair of the March 28, 2020 Emergency Meeting.

CARRIED (200328-03)

2. CHILD CARE PROGRAM DOLLARS

Related information: Report titled “Early Learning and Child Care, One-Time Emergency Support Funding for Métis Nation Saskatchewan Regions with Emergency Child Care Needs”, dated March 27, 2020

Marg Friesen, Minister of Health, extended appreciation to PMC members, the Finance Committee and MN-S staff for their recent support in preparing packages to assist MN-S citizens and communities, in responding to the current COVID-19 pandemic. It was noted that communications had been drafted to announce packages and mechanisms prepared to assist Métis citizens across the province, during the current public health emergency.

Lisa Fleming, Director, Early Learning and Childcare / Child and Family Services, reviewed the funding categories highlighted in the report provided:

- Category 1 funding: a one-time payment intended to fund unique emergency childcare needs for MN-S Locals, MN-S affiliates, community programs or groups to assist Métis children and families; each MN-S region can access a maximum of \$10,000
- Category 2 funding: a one-time payment, intended to support Métis families with Métis children (registered as Métis citizens) with emergency childcare needs; these funds will support children (aged 10 and under) at \$500 per child, to a maximum of \$2,500 per Métis family.

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Funding required to assist Métis citizens in the current emergency situation; further funding allocations will be reviewed upon receipt of federal government's \$7.25 million relief package
- Category 1 funding:
 - Funds will be available for groups that support the child care needs of Métis children and families (registered or non-registered Métis citizens)
 - Emergency lump sum funding could be transferred to Regions, along with criteria for tracking how the funds are distributed to assist Métis citizens
 - A committee (including a Regional Representative, an Elder, the MN-S Secretary and a MN-S staff person) could review Category 1 applications
- Category 2 funding:
 - Funds will be available for children registered as Métis citizens; families with two children could be eligible for \$500 per child (a total of \$1,000)
 - Métis citizens can apply to receive \$500 (per child) directly
- Undertaking a needs assessment, to determine how additional money is required in each region; the allocation of any subsequent funds could be based on the assessment
- Prioritizing health monitoring protocol to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and protect the most vulnerable Métis citizens (the elderly and those with underlying health conditions)
- Ensuring accountability for the money distributed to the MN-S regions; challenges associated with the funding distribution can be addressed as they arise.

3. PROGRAM TO DISTRIBUTE HOUSEHOLD DOLLARS

Related information: Report titled, "Métis Nation – Saskatchewan – Household Support Program", dated March 27, 2020 and related "COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program Application"

Erin Reid, Chief Strategy Officer, reviewed the report provided and commented on:

- The allocation of \$25,000 for each Region for the disbursement of one-time payments to Métis households in need of financial support
- The intent that Regions would administer payments, subject to the terms and conditions of a Service Agreement.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Determining how to fairly and quickly disburse an initial \$25,000 allocation to each Region, to support citizens most impacted by the pandemic (e.g. up to \$500/household)
- Providing some immediate financial relief to Métis households in need
- Accessing funds currently available (e.g. through the Métis Nation Housing Strategy fund).

4. REGIONAL CAPACITY PROGRAM

Related information: Report titled, "Summary of Additional Immediate Relief Measures – Finance Committee", dated April 1, 2020

Louise Simard, Chief Operating Officer, reviewed the report provided, and commented on:

- The Finance Committee's recommendation to advance immediate funding (\$5,000) to each Region, for the coordination and distribution of emergency supplies to citizens in need
- An agreement prepared for each Region, outlining criteria and reporting requirements
- Potentially allocating \$75,000 to each Region, specifically for emergency measures.

It was MOVED (Leonard Montgrand) and SECONDED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council approve the immediate allocation of \$75,000 to each MN-S region, as part of the MN-S’ emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARRIED (200328-04)

It was MOVED (Leonard Montgrand) and SECONDED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council directs that the Minister of Finance and Minister of Health, be provided increased flexibilities, specifically during the time period associated with the COVID-19 pandemic: to proceed on programs and activities being undertaken by the MN-S related to the pandemic; to address emergency decisions as required; and, to keep the PMC promptly informed.

CARRIED (200328-05)

(One abstention)

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Maximizing the relief funding available, and assessing citizens’ needs in each region
- Holding meetings as required to ensure that the needs of Métis people are being addressed
- Drawing \$75,000 for each region, from MN-S’ current funds pending receipt of \$7.5 million from federal government.

5. LES FILLES DE MADELEINE SECRETARIAT INC. (LFDM)

Chair Friesen confirmed that Les Filles de Madeleine Secretariat Inc. (LFDM) had agreed to work with the Regional Directors from each Region, to safely ensure that citizens received the emergency relief they required, for groceries and other essential supplies. A discount has been arranged through a local grocery provider.

It was MOVED (Gerald Morin) and SECONDED (Glen McCallum)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council approve the advancement of \$60,000 to Les Filles de Madeleine Secretariat Inc. to support regional emergency relief efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARRIED (200328-06)

6. EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR MÉTIS ADDICTIONS COUNCIL OF SASKATCHEWAN INC. (MACSI)

Chair Friesen acknowledged the urgent need for emergency supplies to support MACSI’s frontline workers.

It was MOVED (Gerald Morin) and SECONDED (Penny Hurton)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council approves the expenditure of \$10,000 to the Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (MACSI), for emergency supplies required by frontline workers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARRIED (200328-07)

7. NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATES

Needs assessments were discussed earlier in the meeting.

8. OTHER EMERGENCY NEEDS

8.1 Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Chair Friesen referenced the Finance Committee's recommendation to purchase PPE.

It was MOVED (Penny Hurton) and SECONDED (Glen McCallum)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council approves the expenditure of \$200,000 (plus an additional \$30,000 for distribution if required), to purchase for the MN-S regions, personal protective equipment required to assist in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARRIED (200328-08)

Chair Friesen recognized the Region's unique needs, and confirmed that each Local President will be contacted by the MN-S office regarding supports available for their citizens. It was noted that:

- Information received during implementation of the MN-S' emergency plan will be compiled
- Regional Chairs will be promptly informed of any updates; given the emergency situation, efforts will be made to inform Regional Chairs whenever Presidents in their regions are contacted by the MN-S office
- Funding was allocated for each region (\$1,000), to work with Métis youth; the Youth Representative will work with the other Ministers on how to distribute the funding
- Funding was available through the Childcare Programs and Emergency Household Support Programs, in addition to the \$75,000 regional allocation for emergency measures.

8.2 Funding for the Childcare Program and Emergency Household Support Program

Related information: Draft agreements between the MN-S and Regions, related to the transfer of funding for the Household Support Program and for the Childcare Program

It was MOVED (Penny Hurton) and SECONDED (Sherry McLennan)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC) approve the distribution and release of funds for the Childcare Program and Emergency Household Support Program, as presented to the PMC on March 28, 2020.

CARRIED (200328-09)

CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded with a Closing Prayer provided by Elder Norman Fleury.

It was MOVED (Gerald Morin)

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Emergency Meeting held March 28, 2020 now conclude.

CARRIED (200328-10)

(Time: 2:45 p.m.)

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LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were provided for information at the March 28, 2020 meeting:

1. Agenda for the MN-S Provincial Métis Council Emergency Meeting scheduled March 28, 2020
2. Report titled “Early Learning and Child Care, One-Time Emergency Support Funding for Métis Nation Saskatchewan Regions with Emergency Child Care Needs”, dated March 27, 2020
3. Report titled, “Métis Nation – Saskatchewan – Household Support Program”, dated March 27, 2020 and related “COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program Application”
4. Report titled, “Summary of Additional Immediate Relief Measures – Finance Committee”, dated April 1, 2020
5. Draft agreement between the MN-S and Regions, related to the transfer of funding for the Household Support Program
6. Draft agreement between the MN-S and Regions, related to the transfer of funding for the Childcare Program
7. Spreadsheet indicating estimated allocations for the MN-S’ COVID-19 relief program.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
COO	Chief Operating Officer
LFDM	Les Filles de Madeleine Secretariat Inc.
MACSI	Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc.
MN-S	Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council
PPE	Personal protective equipment