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**Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
An Act respecting Locals**

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The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, in accordance with the authority granted to it by the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan through its Constitution, enacts as follows:

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PART I GENERAL

Short title

1 This Act may be cited as the *Locals Act*.

Definitions

2 In this Act:

“bylaw” means:

(a) a bylaw of an incorporated Region enacted in accordance with the legislation of Saskatchewan or Canada under which it is incorporated; or

(b) a bylaw enacted by a Region prior to the coming into force of this Act;

“incorporated Local” means a Local that is incorporated or continued under *The Non-profit Corporations Act, 2022* (Saskatchewan) or other corporate legislation of Saskatchewan or Canada;

“Local” means a Local continued by Article 5-2 of the Constitution or one that is established by following the process set out in this Act;

“regulation” means a regulation enacted by the council of a Local in accordance with the authority provided by this Act or any other Act enacted by the MNLA.

PART II ESTABLISHING, CONTINUING AND DISSOLVING LOCALS

Existing Locals

3(1) An incorporated Local may continue its corporate status under a law of Saskatchewan or Canada but must:

(a) provide a copy of its Articles of Incorporation and bylaws to the Clerk of the MNLA no later than December 31, 2025 and of any amendments within 30 days of making them; and

(b) comply with the legislation under which it is incorporated, its Articles of Incorporation, and its bylaws and with this Act and any other legislation enacted by the MNLA relating to Locals.

(2) A Local that is not incorporated under a law of Saskatchewan or Canada but that has a constitution and bylaws must:

(a) provide a copy of its constitution and bylaws to the Clerk of the MNLA by December 31, 2025 and of any amendments within 30 days of making them; and

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(b) comply with its constitution and bylaws and with this Act and any other legislation enacted by the MNLA relating to Locals.

(3) The provisions of this Act or of any other legislation enacted by the MNLA relating to Locals prevail to the extent of any conflict with:

(a) a law of Saskatchewan or Canada or the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws adopted by an incorporated Local; or

(b) the constitution and bylaws of a Local.

Establishing new Locals

4(1) A new Local may be established by submitting a written request to the council of the Region in which the proposed Local would be located, with a copy to the Clerk of the MNLA, signed by at least 50 registered MN-S citizens at least 16 years old who are eligible to be members of the proposed Local in accordance with subsection 5(1).

(2) A written request to establish a new Local must include the following information:

(a) a proposed name for the Local that will distinguish it from other Locals that already exist;

(b) provisions for the election of a president and vice-president and the other members of the council of the Local to be elected at least every four years;

(c) the process by which MN-S citizens may apply to become members of the Local;

(d) a list of persons who will serve as the Local's first council, including the persons who will serve as the first president and vice-president, and their contact information;

(e) if applicable, identification of the proposed Local's incorporation under a law of Saskatchewan or Canada and copies of its Articles of Incorporation and bylaws; and

(f) any other matters that fall within the authority of a Local under this or any other Act.

(3) Where the council of the Region denies the request, the persons who are proposed to serve as the Local's first council may appeal to the Métis Judicial Body who shall approve the request if it meets the criteria to be established as set out in subsection (1) and (2).

(4) Where the council of the Region, or the Métis Judicial Body on an appeal, approves a request to establish a new Local, the Regional Representative or the Métis Judicial Body shall notify the Clerk of the MNLA and the Clerk shall include a motion to approve the request in the Order of the Day at the next sitting of the MNLA.

(5) Where the MNLA denies a request to establish a new Local, the persons who are proposed to

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serve as the Local's first council may appeal to the Métis Judicial Body who shall approve the request if it meets the criteria to be established as set out in subsection (1) and (2).

(6) Where the MNLA accepts a motion to approve a written request to establish a new Local or the request is approved by the Métis Judicial Body, the Clerk or the Clerk's designate shall administer the oath of office to the president of the Local who may then take their seat in the MNLA.

(7) A decision of the Métis Judicial Body under this section is final

Citizens' right to membership

5(1) A member of a Local must be an MN-S citizen.

(2) Every MN- S citizen has the right to become or remain a member of the Local nearest to where they reside or of a Local with which they have an historical connection or special interest.

(3) An MN-S Métis citizen whose application to become a member of a Local is refused may appeal to the Métis Judicial Body who shall determine whether the applicant meets the criteria for membership in the Local as set out in subsection (1), and the decision of the Métis Judicial Body is final.

Information to be submitted

6(1) Each Local shall submit to the Clerk of the MNLA and to the council of the Region in which it is located:

(a) if the Local is an incorporated Local, a copy of its Articles of Incorporation and bylaws, as amended from time to time;

(b) the names and addresses of persons elected to its council within 30 days after each election together with a copy of the minutes of the meeting of members at which the election occurred, certified by the president of the Local to be a true copy; and

(c) no later than March 31 in each year:

(i) a list of the names and addresses of the members of the Local indicating members who are under 16 years old and members who are 16 years old or older;

(ii) a list of all assets of the Local; and

(iii) minutes of all meetings of the council of the Local held in the previous year.

Dissolving existing Locals

7(1) The council of a Region may approve the dissolution of a Local, other than a Local that is an historic Métis community designated by resolution of the Provincial Métis Council, after providing the Local with six months' notice of its intention to do so, where one or more of the following circumstances apply:

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- (a) the Local has fewer than 50 members who are MN-S citizens 16 years of age or older;
 - (b) the Local has failed to submit the information as and when required by section 6;
 - (c) the Local has failed to hold an election at least every four years or as required by its constitution or this Act, whichever time is earliest.
- (2) A Local that receives a notice of intention pursuant to subsection (1) may:
- (a) apply to the Métis Judicial Body for an order prohibiting the council of the Region from proceeding with a motion to dissolve it; or
 - (b) proceed to request amalgamation with one or more other Locals in accordance with section 8.
- (3) The Clerk of the MNLA shall include a motion to dissolve a Local in the Order of the Day at the next sitting of the MNLA where the Clerk receives a resolution of the council of the Region in which the Local is located requesting dissolution and six months or more has elapsed since the Region provided the Local with a notice of intention pursuant to subsection (1).

Amalgamation

8(1) The Clerk of the MNLA shall include a motion to approve the amalgamation of two or more Locals located in the same Region in the Order of the Day at the next sitting of the MNLA where the Clerk receives a resolution in support of amalgamation from each Local and from the Council of the Region.

- (2) A motion to approve an amalgamation shall include the following information:
- (a) the date on which the amalgamation is to be effective;
 - (b) the name to be assigned to the amalgamated Local;
 - (c) appointment of an interim council of the amalgamated Local to hold office until an election can be held;
 - (d) provisions for the election of a council for the amalgamated Local;
 - (e) confirmation of the list of persons who are members of the amalgamated Local; and
 - (f) confirmation of the list of assets that are transferred or to be transferred to the amalgamated Local and provisions for their transfer.
- (3) Where the MNLA adopts a motion to approve an amalgamation, the Clerk or the Clerk's designate shall administer the oath of office to the interim president of the Local who may then take their seat in the MNLA until an election is held for the council of the amalgamated Local.

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Legal status and capacity

9(1) Each Local is a Métis Nation – Saskatchewan corporation with the capacity and, subject to any limitations that may be contained in this or any other Act, the rights, powers and privileges of an individual.

(2) A Local may exercise any authority or jurisdiction granted to Locals by this or any other Act.

(3) Unless otherwise provided, a Local may only act through its council.

(4) If required to do so by this or any other Act, the council of a Local shall exercise a power given to it through the passing of regulations.

(5) With respect to powers other than those mentioned in subsection (4), the council of a Local may exercise its powers by passing regulations or resolutions.

PART III LOCAL COUNCILS **Composition and Duties**

Number of members

10(1) The council of a Local consists of a president, a vice-president and the number of other members determined:

(a) by its constitution or the resolution of the MNLA establishing it; or

(b) by the regulations of the Local.

Election procedures and term of office

11(1) A person must be an MN-S citizen who is a member of the Local and resides in the Local area in order to be elected as a president, vice-president or member of the council of a Local.

(2) The president, vice-president and members of the council of a Local are to be elected by the MN-S citizens who are members of the Local at least every four years in accordance with:

(a) the bylaws or constitution of the Local or the resolution of the MNLA establishing it;
or

(b) by the regulations of the Local.

(3) A person who is elected as a member of the council of a Local shall take an oath of office in the form set out in Schedule A prior to carrying out any power, duty or function associated with the office to which the person has been elected.

Resignation

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12(1) A member of the council of a Local may resign by delivering a written notice to the president, and the resignation takes effect and the seat on the council becomes vacant on the later of:

- (a) the receipt of the notice by the president; and
- (b) any future date specified in the notice.

(2) The president shall bring to the attention of the council at its next meeting every notice of resignation submitted pursuant to subsection (1).

(3) After a written notice of resignation is delivered to the president, the resignation is irrevocable.

(4) The president of a Local who wishes to resign shall deliver the written notice of resignation to the Clerk of the MNLA and to the council of the Region in which the Local is located.

Vacancies

13(1) If a vacancy arises in the office of president, the vice-president shall assume the office of president until a by-election is held to fill the vacancy.

(2) If a vacancy arises in the office of vice-president, the council shall at its next meeting appoint one of their number to act as vice-president until a by-election is held to fill the vacancy, but a vacancy on the council is deemed not to have occurred by reason of the appointment.

(2) Once a person is elected to fill a vacancy in the office of president or vice-president, the vice-president or councillor who had been appointed to that office shall resume their former office until their term of office expires.

General duties of councillors

14 Members of the council of a Local have the following duties:

- (a) to participate in and create programs, events and services at the local level to benefit citizens and to develop and evaluate the policies, services and programs of the Local;
- (b) to represent and engage with grassroots citizens and communities;
- (c) to collect information and concerns from citizens and communities and to share information with them;
- (d) to consider the well-being and interests of the Local;
- (e) to participate in meetings of the council of the Local and committee meetings and meetings of other bodies to which they are appointed by the council;
- (f) to ensure that administrative practices and procedures are in place to implement the decisions of council and ensure they are acted upon;

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(g) to comply with their oath of office and any code of ethics that may be made applicable to councils of Locals;

(h) to keep in confidence matters discussed in private or to be discussed in private at a meeting of council or council committee meeting until discussed at a meeting held in public;

(i) to maintain the financial integrity of the Local; and

(j) to perform any other duty or function applicable to them under this or any other Act or by a resolution of the council or that they are requested to perform by a member of the Executive, the PMC or the MNLA.

General duties of president and vice-president

15(1) In addition to performing the duties described in section 14, a president of a Local has the following duties:

(a) to participate in the sittings of the Regional Council and the MNLA as a representative of the Local;

(b) to call, and preside when in attendance at, meetings of the council or members of the Local;

(c) to perform any other duty imposed on a president of a Local by this or any other Act or by regulation or resolution of the council.

(2) The vice-president shall act in the place of the president when the president is absent or unable to act.

Conflict of interest

16 Members of the council of a Local who have a personal interest in a matter before the council must declare their interest and must not discuss or vote on the matter when it is considered by the council.

Council committees and bodies

17 The council of a Local may establish committees and other bodies and define their functions.

Meetings of Locals

Open to membership

18(1) Meetings of the council of a Local are open to all members of the Local except with respect to the following confidential matters:

(a) personnel discussions;

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- (b) legal advice and strategy;
- (c) strategy in relation to economic development and financial matters;
- (d) discussions of matters relating to information received from third parties in confidence; or
- (e) discussions involving personal information of specific individuals.

(2) An act or proceeding of a council is not effective unless it is authorized or adopted by a regulation or a resolution at a duly constituted public meeting of the council.

(3) An act or proceeding of a council committee is not effective unless it is authorized or adopted by a resolution at a duly constituted public meeting of the committee or council.

First meeting of council

19(1) The president shall call the first meeting of the council of a Local following a general election within 31 days after the date of the election.

(2) The president shall provide written notice of the time, date and place of the first meeting of the council to all members of council at least seven days before the meeting.

Regular meetings

20(1) A council of a Local must meet at least four times in each year.

(2) A council may decide to hold regularly scheduled council or council committee meetings on specified dates and at specified times and places.

(3) A council meeting held solely for the purpose of long-range or strategic planning may be held without notice to the membership of the Local.

Special meetings

21(1) The president may call a special council meeting, and shall call a special council meeting whenever requested to do so by a majority of the councillors, by giving notice to each member of council and to the membership of the Local stating:

- (a) the purpose of the meeting; and
- (b) the date, time and place at which it is to be held.

(2) No business other than that stated in the notice is to be transacted at a special meeting of the council.

Failure to call meeting

22 Where a president of a Local fails to call a first meeting of council as required by subsection 19(1), or the regular meetings required by subsection 20(1), or a special council meeting when

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required to do so by subsection 21(1), 75% of the members of the council of the Local may request the Clerk of the MNLA to appoint a person to call the meeting and act as chair and shall provide a copy of the request to the Regional Representative of the Region in which the Local is located.

Notice of meetings

23(1) Notice of regularly scheduled meetings need not be given.

(2) Notice must be given to the members of council and to the membership of the Local at least seven days before:

- (a) the first meeting of the council after an election;
- (b) any special council meeting called pursuant to section 21;
- (c) a regularly scheduled meeting where the date, time or place of a regularly scheduled meeting is changed; and
- (d) any meeting where the council does not have regularly scheduled meetings.

(3) In an emergency, a council or council committee meeting may be held with less than seven days' notice to members of council or the committee, and without notice to the membership of the Local, if:

- (a) all members of the council or the council committee waive notice in writing with respect to that meeting before the meeting begins; and
- (b) minutes of the meeting are made publicly available as soon as possible after they are approved, including a description of the circumstances that constituted the emergency.

(4) Notice of a council or council committee meeting is deemed to have been given:

- (a) to a member of council or of a council committee if the notice is:
 - (i) provided personally;
 - (ii) left at the usual place of business or residence of the member; or
 - (iii) at the request of the member, provided or sent according to the member's contact information.
- (b) to the members of the Local if the notice is posted on the Local's website or given in any other manner specified by council, by regulation, as the means by which notice to the members of the Local is to be provided.

Annual meeting of Local members

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24 The council of a Local shall hold an annual meeting of members of the Local on 30 days' notice to all members.

Meeting through electronic means

25(1) A council meeting, council committee meeting or annual meeting of members of a Local may be conducted by means of a telephonic, electronic or other communication facility if:

- (a) notice of the meeting is given to the members of the Local, including notification of the manner in which the meeting is to be conducted;
- (b) the facility enables the members of the Local to at least listen to the meeting at a place specified in that notice and the president is in attendance at that place; and
- (c) the facility permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting.

(2) Members of a council, council committee or of the Local participating in a meeting held by means of a communication facility are deemed to be present at the meeting.

Meeting procedures

26 On or before December 31, 2025, the council of a Local shall, by regulation, establish general procedures to be followed in conducting business at council meetings, including:

- (a) rules for the conduct of members of council;
- (b) rules regarding the confidentiality, transparency, openness and accessibility of documents and other matters to be discussed by or presented to the council;
- (c) rules respecting delegations, presentations and submissions;
- (d) the days, times and places of regularly scheduled meetings and the procedures for amending those days, times and places;
- (e) the procedures for calling a special meeting of the council;
- (f) rules and procedures respecting the closing of all or part of a meeting to the public; and
- (g) any other procedures that the council considers appropriate.

Quorum

27(1) Except as provided in this or any other Act, the quorum of a council is the majority of the members of the council.

(2) No act or proceeding of a council that is adopted at any meeting of the council at which a quorum is not present is valid.

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Voting

28(1) A member of council has one vote each time a vote is held at a council meeting at which the member is present.

(2) Every member of council attending a council meeting shall vote at the meeting on a matter put before council unless the member is required to abstain from voting pursuant to this or any other Act.

Majority decision

29 Unless a greater percentage of votes is required by council or by any other provision of this or any other Act, at every meeting of the council of a Local all questions are to be decided by the majority of the votes.

Recorded vote

30(1) Before a vote is taken by council, a member of council may request that the vote be recorded.

(2) If a vote is recorded, the minutes must show the names of the members of council present and whether each member voted for or against the proposal or abstained.

PART IV REGULATIONS

Passing

31 A regulation is passed when it is approved by the council of the Local at a duly constituted meeting.

Coming into force

32 A regulation comes into force at the specific time that it is passed, as recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the council at which it is approved, or at a later date specified in the regulation.

Amendment and repeal

33 The power to pass a regulation includes a power to amend or repeal the regulation.

PART V DOCUMENTS OF LOCALS

Evidence

34 A copy of a regulation or resolution, or of a book, record, document or account, written or printed without erasure or interlineation, and certified to be a true copy by the president of the Local, is proof of its passing and of its contents without any further proof.

Signing requirements

35(1) Minutes of council meetings and of council committee meetings must be signed by the

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person presiding at the meeting at which the minutes are approved.

(2) Regulations must be signed by the president and the vice-president.

(3) Agreements must be signed by at least two persons designated by council.

(4) Cheques and other negotiable instruments must be signed by the president and at least one other person designated by council.

Preservation

36(1) Before destroying any documents of the Local, a council shall establish a schedule for the retention and disposal of its records but shall ensure that the following documents are preserved permanently:

- (a) regulations, other than repealed regulations;
- (b) minutes; and
- (c) annual financial statements.

Inspection

37(1) Any member of a Local is entitled at any reasonable time and on reasonable notice to inspect and obtain copies of:

- (a) any contract approved by the council, any regulation or resolution, and any account paid by the council relating to the Local;
- (b) the official oaths or affirmations taken by members of council pursuant to section subsection 10(2);
- (c) the Local's financial documents;
- (d) any report of any consultant engaged by or of any employee of the Local, or of any committee or other body established by the council, after the report has been submitted to the council, except any opinion or report of a lawyer; and
- (e) the minutes of the council after they have been approved by the council.

(2) Within a reasonable time after receiving a request, the president shall ensure that the copies requested are provided on payment of any reasonable fee that the council may fix.

(3) A Local may provide additional means of public inspection of the documents mentioned in subsection (1), including posting the documents on the Local's website or a website centrally maintained by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a Local is not required to provide copies of documents that

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are otherwise publicly available.

PART VI FINANCIAL

Financial year

38 The financial year of a Local is the period from April 1 in one year to March 31 in the next year.

Accounts

39(1) Only the president and at least one other person authorized by the council for the purpose pursuant to a resolution or regulation enacted by the council may open or close the accounts that hold the money of a Local.

(2) The accounts that hold the money of a Local are required to be kept in financial institutions designated by the council pursuant to a resolution or regulation enacted by the council.

PART VII CHALLENGING REGULATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Application to quash

40(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), any member of a Local may apply to the Métis Judiciary to quash a regulation or resolution in whole or in part on the basis that:

- (a) the regulation or resolution is illegal in substance or form;
- (b) the proceedings before the passing of the regulation or resolution do not comply with this or any other Act; or
- (c) the manner of passing the regulation or resolution does not comply with this or any other enactment.

(2) An application pursuant to this section must be made to the Métis Judiciary within six months after the regulation or resolution is passed.

Validity

41(1) No regulation or resolution is invalid if, at the time any action or proceeding is commenced to challenge its validity, the council has jurisdiction to pass it pursuant to this or any other Act.

(2) Every regulation or resolution mentioned in subsection (1) and any agreement entered into pursuant to that regulation or resolution is, if otherwise legal and operative, deemed to be valid and binding on and from the time it purported to come into force.

Reasonableness

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42 No regulation or resolution passed in good faith may be challenged on the ground that it is unreasonable.

PART VIII OFFENCES

General offence and possible consequences

43(1) Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act is guilty of an offence.

(2) An MN-S citizen may refer a complaint to the Métis Judicial Body to be resolved through the Kwayaskastasowin process.

(3) Where the Métis Judicial Body determines that a contravention of this Act has occurred, the Métis Judicial Body may have access to any of the following consequences, as are consistent with the principles of Kwayaskastasowin and appropriate in all of the circumstances of the offence:

- (a) an order that a person cease an activity that is prohibited or perform one that is required;
- (b) an order that an individual perform a specific community service within a specified time;
- (c) an order for restitution;
- (d) the imposition of a fine of not more than \$1,000.00;
- (e) a declaration of ineligibility to hold any elected or appointed office in the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan for a period of up to 10 years from the date the offence was committed;
- (f) any other consequence that may be authorized by this Act.

PART IX COMING INTO FORCE

Coming into force

44 This Act comes into force on June 1, 2025.

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Schedule A
Oath (Affirmation) of Office
(Subsection 9(2))

I, _____, having been elected to hold office on the council of Local _____

DO SOLEMNLY PROMISE AND DECLARE THAT:

- 1 I will truly, faithfully and impartially, to the best of my knowledge and ability, perform the duties of this office;
- 2 I am qualified to hold the office to which I have been elected;
- 3 I have not received and will not receive any payment or reward, or promise of payment or reward, for the exercise of any corrupt practice or other undue execution or influence of this office;
- 4 I have read, understand and agree to abide by the code of ethics, rules of conduct and procedures applicable to my position as a member of council required of me by the *Locals Act* and any other Act and by the council;
- 5 I will:
 - (a) perform the duties of office imposed by the *Locals Act* and any other Act or law and by the council;
 - (b) disclose any conflict of interest as required by the *Locals Act*; and
 - (c) comply with the code of ethics, rules of conduct and procedures applicable to the office I now hold that are imposed by the *Locals Act* and any other Act and by the council.

DECLARED before me at _____,
Saskatchewan
This day of _____, 20__ .

Signature of Declarant

A Commissioner for Oaths or Notary Public
for Saskatchewan,
My commission expires:

Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
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