

Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

An Act respecting Regions

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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 *Regions 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 Region**” means a Region 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 as defined in the *Locals Act*;

“**regulation**” means a regulation authorized by this or any other Act to be made by a Region.

PART II REGIONS

Number and boundaries

3(1) The Province of Saskatchewan is divided into 12 Regions with the names and boundaries as shown on the maps attached as Schedule A.

(2) At the request of the MNLA, the Provincial Métis Council may direct a review of the number of regions and their boundaries, including terms of reference and financial resources, and require a final report to be provided to the MNLA that includes recommendations for proposed legislative changes.

Legal status and capacity

4(1) Each Region 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 Region may exercise any authority or jurisdiction granted to Regions by this or any other Act.

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- (3) Unless otherwise provided, a Region may only act through its council.
- (4) If required to do so by this or any other Act, the council of a Region 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 Region may exercise its powers by passing regulations or resolutions.

Existing Regions

5(1) An incorporated Region 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 Regions.

(2) A Region 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
- (b) comply with its constitution and bylaws and with this Act and any other legislation enacted by the MNLA relating to Regions.

(3) The provisions of this Act or of any other legislation enacted by the MNLA relating to Regions 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 Region; or
- (b) the constitution or bylaws of a Region.

Information to be submitted

6 Each Region shall submit to the Clerk of the MNLA:

- (a) 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 Regional Representative to be a true copy; and

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

(i) a list of the Locals located in the Region and copies of minutes of meetings of the Local councils;

(ii) a copy of the Region's financial statements;

(iii) minutes of all meetings of the council of the Region held in the previous year;

(iv) a list of any socio-economic development corporations incorporated by the Region; and

(v) a list of all assets of the Region.

PART III REGIONAL COUNCILS **Composition and Duties**

Members of council

7 The council of a Region consists of:

(a) the presidents of the Locals located within the boundaries of the Region elected in accordance with the *Locals Act*; and

(b) the Regional Representative, the women's representative and the youth representative elected in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and the *Election Act*.

Resignation

8(1) A member of the council of a Region may resign by delivering a written notice to the Regional Representative, 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 Regional Representative; and

(b) any future date specified in the notice.

(2) The Regional Representative shall table the notice of resignation at the next meeting of the council of the Region.

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

(4) A Regional Representative who wishes to resign shall deliver the written notice of

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resignation to the Clerk of the MNLA.

Vacancies

9(1) If a vacancy arises in the office of Regional Representative, the council shall, at its next meeting, appoint a councillor to act as Regional Representative 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) If a person is elected to fill a vacancy in the office of Regional Representative, the councillor who had been appointed as Regional Representative, shall resume their office as councillor if the term of that office has not expired

(3) A vacancy in the office of women's representative or youth representative shall not be filled by appointment, but a by-election shall be held to fill the vacancy without delay, unless the next general election is less than 12 months away.

General duties of councillors

10 Members of the council of a Region have the following duties:

- (a) to provide advice and direction to its Regional Representative on local or regional matters that require the attention of the Provincial Métis Council or the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly;
- (b) to make appointments of regional representatives to institutions and affiliates;
- (c) to seek necessary finances and resources to carry out objectives, and duties;
- (d) to administer the affairs and business of the Region;
- (e) to participate in meetings of the council of the Region 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 the council;
- (g) 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;
- (h) to maintain the financial integrity of the Region;
- (i) to develop the Locals within the Region through events and other means; and
- (j) to perform any other duty or function applicable to the Region under this or any other

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Act or by the council or that they are requested to perform by a member of the Executive, the PMC or the MNLA.

General duties of Regional Representative

11(1) In addition to performing the duties described in section 10, a Regional Representative has the following duties:

- (a) to participate in the sittings of the PMC and the MNLA as a representative of the Region;
- (b) to call and attend meetings of the council of the Region as required by this Act;
- (c) to preside when in attendance at a meeting of the council of the Region;
- (d) to represent Métis citizens who reside within the boundaries of the Region but are not a member of a Local;
- (e) to encourage Métis persons in the Region to register as MN-S citizens;
- (f) to prepare a draft budget for consideration and approval by the council of the Region;
- (g) to be present at annual meetings of Locals located in the Region;
- (h) to assist Locals within the Region;
- (j) to perform any other duty applicable to a Regional Representative under this or any other Act or by the council or that they are requested to perform by a member of the Executive, the PMC or the MNLA.

(2) The salary of a Regional Representative who fails to attend three meetings in a row of the PMC or the council of the Region without good cause shall be suspended.

General duties of women's representative

12 In addition to performing the duties described in section 10, the women's representative on a Regional Council has a duty to bring forward issues of concern to women to be discussed and addressed by the Regional Council and other entities to which the women's representative is appointed or assigned.

General duties of youth representative

13 In addition to performing the duties described in section 10, the youth representative on a Regional Council has the duty to bring forward issues of concern to youth to be discussed and addressed by the Regional Council and other entities to which the youth representative is appointed or assigned.

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Conflict of interest

14 Members of a Regional Council 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

15 The council of a Region may establish committees and other bodies and define their functions.

Meetings of Regional Councils

Open to membership

16(1) Meetings of councils of a Region are open to all MN-S citizen who reside within the Region except with respect to the following confidential matters:

- (a) personnel discussions;
- (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

17(1) The Regional Representative shall call the first meeting of a council following a their election within 31 days after the date of the election.

(2) The Regional Representative 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

18(1) A council may decide to hold regularly scheduled council or council committee meetings on specified dates and at specified times and places.

(2) The council of a Region shall meet at least once every three months.

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Special meetings

19(1) The Regional Representative 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 MN-S citizens residing within the Region 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

20 Where a Regional Representative fails to call a first meeting of council as required by section 17 or a special meeting of council when required to do so by subsection 19(1), 75% of the Locals in the Region may request the Clerk of the MNLA to appoint a person to call the meeting and act as chair.

Notice of meetings

21(1) Notice of regularly scheduled meetings need not be given.

(2) Notice must be given to the members of council and to the MN-S citizens residing within the Region at least seven days before:

- (a) the first meeting of the council after an election;
- (b) any special meeting called pursuant to section 19;
- (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 MN-S citizens residing within the Region, if:

- (a) all members of council or council committee members 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.

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(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 MN-S citizens residing within the Region if the notice is posted on the Region's website or given in any other manner specified by council, by bylaw, as the means by which notice to the MN-S citizens residing within the Region is to be provided.

(5) A council meeting held solely for the purpose of long-range or strategic planning may be held without notice to the MN-S citizens who are resident within the Region.

Annual meeting of MN-S citizens in the Region

22 The council of a Region shall hold an annual meeting of MN-S citizens residing in the Region members on 30 days' notice to all citizens.

Meeting through electronic means

23(1) A council meeting or council committee meeting may be conducted by means of a telephonic, electronic or other communication facility if:

(a) notice of the meeting is given to the MN-S citizens residing within the Region, including notification of the way in which the meeting is to be conducted;

(b) the facility enables the MN-S citizens residing within the Region 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 or council committee participating in a meeting held by means of a communication facility are deemed to be present at the meeting.

Meeting procedures

24 On or before December 31, 2025, the council of a Region 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;

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- (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

25(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.

Voting

26(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.

(3) If a member of council is not required to abstain from voting on a matter before council and abstains from voting, the member is deemed to have voted in the negative.

(4) The president shall ensure that each abstention is recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Majority decision

27 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 Regional Council all questions are to be decided by the majority of the votes.

Recorded vote

28(1) Before a vote is taken by council, a member of council may request that the vote be recorded.

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(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

29 A regulation is passed when it is approved by the Regional Council at a duly constituted meeting.

Coming into force

30 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

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

PART V DOCUMENTS OF REGIONS

Evidence

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

Signing requirements

33(1) Minutes of council meetings and of council committee meetings must be signed by the person presiding at the meeting at which the minutes are approved.

(2) Regulations must be signed by the Regional Representative and one other member of council designated by a resolution of the council.

(3) Agreements must be signed by at least two persons designated by a resolution of the council.

(4) Cheques and other negotiable instruments must be signed by the Regional Representative and at least one other person designated by a resolution of the council.

Preservation

34(1) Before destroying any documents of the Region, a council of a Region shall establish a schedule for the retention and disposal of its records but shall ensure that the following documents are preserved permanently:

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

Inspection

35(1) Any MN-S citizen residing within the Region 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 Region;
 - (b) the Region's financial statements;
 - (c) any report of any consultant engaged by or of any employee of the Region, 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
 - (d) the minutes of the council after they have been approved by the council.
- (2) Within a reasonable time after receiving a request, the Regional Representative shall ensure that the copies requested are provided on payment of any reasonable fee that the council may fix.
- (3) A Regional Council may provide additional means of public inspection of the documents mentioned in subsection (1), including posting the documents on the Region's website.
- (4) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a Region is not required to provide copies of documents that are otherwise publicly available.

PART VI FINANCIAL

Financial year

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

Accounts

37(1) Only the Regional Representative 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 Region.

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(2) The accounts that hold the money of a Region are required to be kept in financial institutions designated by the council.

Budget

38 A council shall adopt an operating and capital budget for each financial year.

Expenditure of money

39 A Region may only make an expenditure that is:

- (a) included in its budget or otherwise authorized by its council;
- (b) for an emergency; or
- (c) legally required to be paid.

Annual financial statements

40 On or before April 1 of each year, a council shall prepare financial statements of the Region for the preceding financial year in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles as set out in the *CPA Canada Handbook – Accounting*, or the *CPA Canada Public Sector Accounting Handbook*, as amended from time to time.

PART VII CHALLENGING REGULATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Application to quash

41(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), any MN-S citizen residing within the Region may apply to the Métis Judicial Body 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 Judicial Body within six months after the regulation or resolution is passed.

Validity

42(1) No regulation or resolution is invalid if, at the time any action or proceeding is commenced

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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

43 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

44(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.

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PART IX REPEAL AND COMING INTO FORCE

Repeal

45 The Regional Boundaries Act, 1997 is repealed.

Coming into force

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

SCHEDULE A Maps *[to be appended]*

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