



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

held April 17, 2024

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Emergency Meeting held April 17, 2024, at Dakota Dunes Resort, Saskatchewan.

PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL:

Present

Glen McCallum, President

Michelle LeClair, Vice President

Lisa McCallum, Secretary

Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region 3

Laura Burnouf, Northern Region 1

Ryan Carriere, Eastern Region 1

Brent Digness, Eastern Region 2

Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3

Wendy Gervais, Western Region 3

Billy Kennedy, Western Region 1A (arrived at 11:00 a.m.)

Loretta King, Western Region 1

Autumn Laing-LaRose, Provincial Métis Youth Council

Darlene Langan, Les Filles de Madeleine

Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2

Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2

Kathie Pruden Nansel, Western Region 2A

Absent

Tim Roussin, Eastern Region 2A

ALSO PRESENT:

Elder Norman Fleury

Elder Louise Oelke

John Lagimodiere, Chair

MN-S OFFICE: (*additional MN-S representatives attended as “Observers”*)

Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer

Matt Vermette, Chief Operating Officer

Christopher Gall, Deputy Chief / Senior
General Counsel

Heather Hallgrimson, Policy Analyst Dorothy Myo,

Deputy Chief, Policy, and Self Determination

Brandy Laronde, Manager, Cabinet and Legislative
Services

PREPARATION OF MINUTES:

Diane Parsons, Recording Secretary

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.

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

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 *Constitution of the Métis Nation -Saskatchewan*, for the purpose of holding an Emergency Meeting to address extraordinary and emergent matters.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (240417-01)

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Lagimodiere, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Norman Fleury and Elder Louise Oelke provided Opening Prayers.

3. ROLL CALL

A roll call was conducted, and it was confirmed that a quorum was present.

4. RESOLUTION: Constitutional Reform

It was MOVED (Lisa McCallum) and SECONDED (Michelle LeClair)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) recognizes the distinctiveness of Métis identity, culture, values and language - inclusive of knowledge keepers, Elders, Youth and distinctive resources – which is incorporated into proposals and decisions of the Provincial Métis Council (PMC);

WHEREAS the MN-S has committed to work with citizens and communities on amendments to the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* (the “*Constitution*”) to ensure it fully reflects the values and aspirations of Métis citizens and enables the full implementation and realization of self-government;

WHEREAS the MN-S undertook community consultations with citizens throughout the province in 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 and in 2024 to solicit their views on constitutional reform and has incorporated this information into a substantial package of proposed constitutional amendments and legislation;

WHEREAS Métis citizens have consistently reaffirmed the need to incorporate Métis values and culture into the language and spirit of the *Constitution*; and

WHEREAS constitutional changes require thoughtful consideration by Métis citizens and by the officials elected to represent them and that these processes benefit from extensive consideration and consultation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the PMC supports proceeding with constitutional amendments related to the following areas, in time for consideration at the Fall 2024 session of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA):

- Addition of language to support self-government and an affirmation of Métis rights to the preamble of the *Constitution*;
- Election of provincial representatives for women and youth to be included in the provincial MN-S general election every four years;
- Provisions allowing for the creation of a Métis Judiciary;
- Changes to General Assembly provisions so eligibility for voting will be open to all MN-S citizens of voting age; and
- General clean-up (including but not limited to minor changes to grammar, consistency, and removal of 2007 election details); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT other proposed constitutional amendments will be considered by the MNLA in 2025 or in subsequent sessions.

CARRIED (240417-02)

One vote in opposition

5. **RESOLUTION: Bill C-53 and MN-S Treaty Direction**

It was MOVED (Glen McCallum) and SECONDED (Michelle LeClair)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) recognizes the distinctiveness of Métis identity, culture, values and language – inclusive of knowledge keepers, Elders, Youth and distinctive resources – which is incorporated in proposals and decisions of the Provincial Métis Council (PMC);

WHEREAS the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan has an inherent right to self-determination, including self-government, recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

WHEREAS the MN-S took historic steps towards realizing self-government through signing the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement (2019) and the Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement (2023) with Canada, recognizing Métis self-government and committing to the conclusion of a Treaty and the introduction of federal recognition legislation;

WHEREAS the history of the Métis Nation is marked by sacrifice, struggle, and bloodshed as it fought to assert and protect its self-government. The Metis Nation shares a history that encompasses the exercise of the inherent right to self-determination, including the right of self-government, over many generations;

WHEREAS the MN-S was joined with the Métis Nation of Alberta and Métis Nation of Ontario in *Bill C-53, An Act respecting the recognition of certain Métis governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, to give effect to treaties with those governments and to make consequential amendments to other Acts (Bill C-53)*, introduced in Parliament by the Government of Canada on June 21, 2023;

WHEREAS *Bill C-53* was subject to extensive scrutiny by the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs, and has not yet received third reading in the House of Commons;

WHEREAS outstanding issues with Métis governments other than the MN-S have hindered the passage of *Bill C-53* and recent legal developments have further diminished the viability of *Bill C-53*, and by extension the federal recognition of MN-S self-government;

WHEREAS realizing the inherent right of self-government is a core purpose of the MN-S government and of primary importance to the existence and well-being of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan, and the MN-S has acted with the urgency and diligence demanded by the importance of this objective and the rare and singular nature of the opportunity at hand;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the PMC directs the MN-S to immediately withdraw from *Bill C-53*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the PMC directs that the MN-S shall take every measure necessary to:

- Conclude the negotiation of a government-to-government treaty with Canada; and
- Present the treaty to the PMC for approval and ratification at the November 2024 MNLA, to pave the way for the introduction of federal recognition legislation for the MN-S, in January 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (240417-03)

6. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting concluded with Closing Prayers offered by Elders Norman Fleury and Louise Oelke.

It was MOVED (Kathie Pruden Nansel) and SECONDED (Brent Digness)

That the April 17, 2024, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Emergency Meeting now conclude.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (240417-04)

Time: 2:48 p.m.

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LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were referenced or presented for consideration at the meeting:

1. Draft Resolution on “Constitutional Reform”
2. Draft Resolution on “Bill C-53 and MN-S Treaty Direction”

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

MNLA	Métis Nation Legislative Assembly
MN-S	Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council