



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

held June 18, 2024

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting held June 18, 2024, by videoconference.

PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL:

Present

Glen McCallum, President	Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3
Michelle LeClair, Vice President	Wendy Gervais, Western Region 3
Lisa McCallum, Secretary	Billy Kennedy, Western Region 1A
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region 3	Loretta King, Western Region 1
Laura Burnouf, Northern Region 1	Autumn Laing-LaRose, Provincial Métis Youth Council
Ryan Carriere, Eastern Region 1	Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2
Brent Digness, Eastern Region 2 (for Item 10.3)	Kathie Pruden Nansel, Western Region 2A

Absent / Regrets

Darlene Langan, Les Filles de Madeleine	Tim Roussin, Eastern Region 2A
Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2	

ALSO PRESENT:

Elder Louise Oelke	John Lagimodiere, Chair
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MN-S OFFICE: *(additional MN-S representatives attended as “Observers”)*

Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Beverly Fullerton, Manager of Treaty Engagements
Matt Vermette, Chief Operating Officer	Brandy Laronde, Manager, Cabinet and Legislative Services
Brandon MacLeod, Legal	Claire Letendre, Advisor to the Vice President
Dorothy Myo, Deputy Chief, Self-Government	Amanda Marcotte, Advisor to Kelly Pruden
Kelly Pruden, Deputy Chief, Infrastructure	Lillian Lizee, Senior Advisor to the CEO
Andie Arnold, Advisor to the CEO	

PREPARATION OF MINUTES:

Jana Anderson, Recording Secretary

AGENDA VARIED

The order of the agenda varied. Items are presented in these minutes in the order they were considered and are numbered as indicated on the approved agenda.

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Lagimodiere, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Louise Oelke provided an Opening Prayer.

3. ROLL CALL

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

9:14 a.m.

Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3 joined the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Minutes of the May 21, 2024, MN-S PMC Meeting

It was MOVED (Laura Burnouf) and SECONDED (Michelle LeClair)

That the Agenda for the June 18, 2024, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting be approved as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Opening Remarks – President Glen McCallum
6. Approval of the Consent Agenda Items:
 - 6.1 Appointing the Recording Secretary
 - 6.2 Review/Approval of May 21, 2024, PMC Minutes
7. Resolutions
 - 7.1 2024 General Assembly Date
 - 7.2 Elected Official Travel Policy
8. Financial Update
9. General Assembly Update
10. In-Camera Session
11. Closing Prayer.

CARRIED (240618-01)

It was noted that the items for the in-camera meeting were confidential and were circulated separately to the PMC.

9:14 a.m.

Glen McCallum, President, joined the meeting.

6. PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Minutes of the May 21, 2024, MN-S PMC Meeting

During discussion, comments were offered on the need for clarification regarding regional capacity funding and on the duty to consult.

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

That the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council (PMC) approves the following items presented on the “Consent Agenda”:

- Appointing Jana Anderson as Recording Secretary for the June 18, 2024, PMC Meeting; and
- Adoption of the May 21, 2024, PMC Meeting Minutes, as presented.

CARRIED (240618-02)

5. OPENING REMARKS

President McCallum confirmed he was currently attending the Elders Gathering scheduled June 18-21, 2024, in Pinehouse, Saskatchewan.

7. RESOLUTIONS

7.1 2024 General Assembly Date

Related information (provided with the agenda):

- Briefing Note regarding, "General Assembly Constitutional Amendments Voting Update", dated June 18, 2024
- Draft resolution titled, "Setting the Date for the Fall 2024 General Assembly"

During discussion, it was noted that the process for voting at the 2024 General Assembly will be developed by legal counsel.

With the consent of the mover and seconder, the draft resolution was amended to clarify that the November 1-3, 2024 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) was scheduled in Regina.

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

WHEREAS Constitutional amendments were tabled at the Spring 2024 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) for consideration at the Fall 2024 MNLA;

WHEREAS the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (Constitution)* in Article 15, Section 1, requires constitutional amendments to be ratified by three quarters of the members of the General Assembly;

WHEREAS the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) tentatively scheduled a General Assembly for December 7, 2024 noting that the date may be modified depending on determination of need of the PMC (as per Resolution #231121-05);

WHEREAS the PMC passed a resolution at their duly held meeting on April 19, 2024, to move forward the date of the MNLA to November 1 to 3, 2024 in Regina, Saskatchewan, to accommodate the new timeline for ratifying the Kishchi Mashinaayikun Ooshchi Michif;

WHEREAS Prairieland Park located at 503 Ruth Street East, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, has already been booked for the dates of November 22 to 24, 2024, which were the original dates of the Fall 2024 MNLA;

WHEREAS it is prudent to utilize the venue that has already been reserved by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan while ensuring that citizens from across Saskatchewan are able to attend the General Assembly;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the PMC confirms the Fall 2024 General Assembly will be held on November 23, 2024, with one central location held at Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth Street East, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the General Assembly will have multiple remote satellite locations within the province of Saskatchewan where members of the General Assembly can receive information, ask questions and vote on constitutional amendments by being virtually connected to the central location.

CARRIED (240618-03)

7.2 Elected Official Travel Policy

Related information (provided with the agenda):

- Briefing Note regarding, "Elected Official Travel Policy" dated June 4, 2024
- Resolution titled, "Approval of MN-S Elected Official Travel Policy"

A draft resolution was introduced to approve the MN-S Elected Official Travel Policy. In response to questions, clarification was provided that:

- The full "Elected Official Travel Policy" was appended to the Briefing Note
- The clause related to rental vehicles is for short term rentals in lieu of using personal vehicles; the long-term vehicles, rented during COVID, were returned
- The company credit cards, referred to in Clause 5.5.2, have small limits and are held by the three PMC Executive members; expenses incurred must fall within associated department budgets
- If approved, the new policy would override Section 34 of the Financial Policy previously approved by the PMC in 2022
- The PMC would approve any future amendments to the Policy
- Staff support to complete travel claims, will still be available
- The exclusivity language in the Policy would not prevent travel arrangements being made as a result of an emergent circumstance
- There are currently three travel policies in place: one for staff, guests of the Nation and one for Elected Officials; the policy for staff and guests was implemented in May 2024.

During discussion on the Briefing Note, comments were offered on:

- The current composition of the Finance Committee and role of the MN-S President to make appointments as required
- The late circulation of the Briefing Note did not provide enough time for a proper review
- Support for further revisions to the draft policy related to:
 - o Including language whereby any amendments to the policy are to be presented to the PMC for approval
 - o Being less restrictive to allow for travel bookings in the case of emergencies
 - o Section 6 which reflects that the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive Officer have the authority to amend the travel policy which contradicts clarification provided by staff that amendments to the policy are to be reviewed by the Finance Committee and approved by the PMC.

With the consent of the Mover and Seconder, the draft resolution, presented to approve the proposed Elected Official Travel Policy, was tabled for consideration at the next PMC meeting.

Request for Action (RFA-240618-01)

It was requested that copies of the travel policies for Elected Officials, MN-S staff and Guest of the Nation be provided to the members of the Provincial Métis Council.

8. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Marg Friesen, Minister of Finance, provided an update and commented on:

- Continuing efforts to build the team within the Ministry of Finance
- The budget to be presented for ratification at the MNLA
- The intent to provide an update on the status of the budget and financial position at the next PMC meeting.

9. GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

Related information (provided with the agenda): Briefing Note regarding, “General Assembly Constitutional Amendments Voting Update”, dated June 18, 2024

Dorothy Myo, Deputy Chief, Self-Government, reviewed the distributed Briefing Note and commented on the summary of recommendations, considerations, and next steps. It was noted that once finalized, a separate process designed for the ratification of the Kishchi Mashinaayikun Oooshchi Michif, will be presented to the PMC for approval.

10. IN-CAMERA SESSION

Meeting Adjourned

It was MOVED (Laura Burnouf) and SECONDED (Loretta King)

That the June 18, 2024, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting now adjourn for an in-camera discussion.

CARRIED (240618-04)

Time: 10:15 a.m.

Meeting Reconvened

June 18, 2024, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Regular Meeting reconvened at 2:03 p.m.

10.1 Métis National Council (MNC)

The Chair introduced a motion regarding a resolution to be tabled at the upcoming Métis Nation General Assembly, which was considered during the in-camera session.

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

WHEREAS the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) 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 Métis have fought and died for generations in the struggle to secure the existence of our people and to assert our right to govern ourselves and determine our own destiny;

WHEREAS Louis Riel, when considering how the Métis should govern ourselves, stated “As a principle of action, we must seek to do what is right, and at the same time have a special regard for the people of this country. We must seek to preserve the existence of our own people.”;

WHEREAS determining who we are and who belongs to us, through our own customs, traditions and institutions, is a foundation of our continued existence and self-determination;

WHEREAS the Métis National Council (MNC) was formed in 1983 in response to the need for a Métis body to advocate for the distinct needs and identity of the Métis Nation, and is mandated by the Metis Nation General Assembly to advance issues of collective importance to the Metis Nation;

WHEREAS the MNC has, in recent years, become ineffective at preserving Métis identity and advancing Metis rights and no longer effectively advances the interests of the Metis Nation within Saskatchewan;

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has accepted and continues to represent significant numbers of people who are not Métis, and the MNC has failed to ensure the integrity of MNO's citizenship registry and rectify this ongoing problem after several years;

WHEREAS the MN-S' continued association with MNO as a fellow Governing Member of the MNC no longer benefits the MN-S or the Métis Nation as a whole;

WHEREAS the MN-S has made great strides towards constitutionally-entrenched self-government outside of the MNC, and its continued participation in the MNC can only be justified if the MNC's structure, role, and composition are reformed to serve the interests of the MN-S;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MN-S table a resolution at the upcoming Métis Nation General Assembly to enact the following measures:

- Remove Métis Nation of Ontario from the MNC immediately;
- Remove the Office of the President;
- Create the role of Chairperson to preside over the MNC Board of Governors, and stipulate that the Chairperson will not leave the Homeland in their official capacity;
- Prescribe the role of the MNC Secretariat in the MNC bylaws as "Lobbying on behalf of all Governing Members according to the direction of the Board of Governors";
- Divide all funding provided by the Government of Canada for Métis Veterans among the Governing Members; and
- Dissolve the Métis Nation General Assembly and remove its role from the MNC bylaws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MN-S shall resign from the MNC if this resolution is not passed by the Métis Nation General Assembly in its entirety.

CARRIED (240618-05)

CONCLUSION

It was MOVED (Mervin "Tex" Bouvier)

That the June 18, 2024, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting now conclude.

CARRIED (240618-06)

Time: 2:08 p.m.

Elder Louise Oelke offered a Closing Prayer.

LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

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

1. Agenda for the June 18, 2024, MN-S PMC Meeting
2. Draft Minutes of the May 21 2024, MN-S PMC Meeting
3. Draft resolution titled, “Setting the Date for the Fall 2024 General Assembly”
4. Briefing Note regarding, “Elected Official travel Policy”, dated June 4, 2024
5. Draft resolution titled, “Approval of MN-S Elected Official Travel Policy”
6. Briefing Note on, “General Assembly Constitutional Amendments Voting Update”, dated June 18, 2024

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