



**MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL MEETING**
held February 18, 2025

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting held February 18, 2025, at Dakota Dunes Resort, 203 Dakota Dunes Way, Whitecap, 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
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
Tim Roussin, Eastern Region 2A*

ALSO PRESENT:

John Lagimodiere, Chair
Elder Norman Fleury
Elder Louise Oelke
Elder Ben Smith
Elder Debra Smith

Riva Farrell Racette, Legal Counsel, MLT Aikins LLP
Merrilee Rasmussen, Rasmussen, Rasmussen &
Charowsky, LPC
Carrie Peacock, Recording Secretary

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

Matt Vermette, Chief Operating Officer
Dorothy Myo, Deputy Chief, Self-Government
Hilary Peterson, Acting Senior General Counsel /
Deputy Chief

Heather Hallgrimson, Legislative Coordinator,
Policy and Self Determination

(indicates attendance by videoconference)*

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Lagimodiere, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. and acknowledged the traditional lands on which the meeting was being held.

2. OPENING PRAYERS

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. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Related information: Draft Agenda for the February 18, 2025, MN-S PMC Meeting

During discussion, it was requested that the Minutes of the January 21, 2025 PMC Minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda, to enable their consideration. It was further agreed that the In-Camera Meeting agenda be expanded to include updates on Île-à-la-Crosse and a Human Resources Policy for Employees.

It was MOVED (Glen McCallum) and SECONDED (Marg Friesen)

That the Agenda for the February 18, 2025, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) 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. Consent Agenda:
 - 6.1 Appointment of the Recording Secretary
7. Requested Action Items
8. Resolutions:
 - 8.1 Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governor Appointment for NR1
 - 8.2 Return of MN-S Owned Assets Before the 2025 MN-S Election
 - 8.3 Setting the Dates for the 2026-2027 MNLAs
 - 8.4 Appointment of the MNLA Speaker and Deputy Speaker
 - 8.5 Amending the date of July 2025 MNLA
 - 8.6 Elected Official Harassment Policy
9. Financial Update
 - 9.1 Financial Accountability for Elected Officials
10. In-Camera Discussion, including:
 - 10.1 Update on Île-à-la-Crosse
 - 10.2 Human Resources Policy for Employees
11. Conclusion and Closing Prayer.

CARRIED (250218-01)

5. OPENING REMARKS

President McCallum acknowledged recent and upcoming events, and commented on:

- Focusing PMC Meetings and MN-S Assemblies on the updates prepared on priority issues
- Recognizing the Citizenship Registry as the heartbeat of the MN-S
- Advancing reconciliation and fostering effective governance for the well-being of MN-S citizens.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Minutes of the January 21, 2025, MN-S PMC Meeting

In response to a question raised regarding the omission of a verbatim statement from the draft Minutes of the January 21, 2025 PMC meeting, Hilary Peterson, Acting Senior General Counsel / Deputy Chief, clarified that PMC minutes generally did not include verbatim statements from attendees, and that doing so would be inconsistent with established practice.

6.1 Appointment of the Recording Secretary

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier)

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

- Appointment of Carrie Peacock as Recording Secretary for the February 18, 2025, PMC Meeting.

CARRIED (250218-02)

7. REQUESTED ACTION ITEMS

Related information (provided with the agenda): List of Request for Action Items 2025

The Provincial Secretary clarified that Request for Action #RFA-250121-03, in the Draft Minutes of the January 21, 2025 Meeting, pertained to all budgets related to MN-S self-government agreements.

Request for Action (RFA-250218-01)

It was requested that staff distribute to the Provincial Métis Council, details of all budgets related to self-government agreements signed by the MN-S.

8. RESOLUTIONS

8.1 Gabriel Dumont Institute /Board of Governors Appointment for NR1

Related information (provided with the agenda):

- *Biography of Glenn Lafleur, Northern Region 1*
- *Draft Resolution, “Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors Appointment for Northern Region 1”*

It was MOVED (Laura Burnouf) and SECONDED (Mervin “Tex” Bouvier)

WHEREAS the *Constitution of the Métis Nation –Saskatchewan*, Article 5.3 states that Regional Councils make appointments to Affiliates at the Provincial level;

WHEREAS the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (GDI) invited applications for the GDI Board of Governors to fill the vacant position in Northern Region 1, in an ad shared from September 2024 to December 2024; and

WHEREAS Northern Region 1 at their duly held meeting on January 28, 2025, recommended that Glenn Lafleur sit on the GDI Board of Governors representing Northern Region 1;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Métis Council ratify the appointment of Glenn Lafleur to represent Northern Region 1 on the GDI Board of Governors.

CARRIED (250218-03)

8.2 Return of MN-S Owned Assets Before the 2025 MN-S Election

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Resolution, “Return of MN-S Owned Assets Before the 2025 MN-S Election”

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Ensuring accountability and transparency in managing MN-S assets, including those assigned to elected officials
- Allowing sufficient time for staff to reconcile final credit card statements with expenditures, and ensure compliance with reporting requirements

- Clarifying that the proposed resolution applied to all MN-S assets assigned to Executive and Regional Representatives, excluding MN-S employees.

In response to questions raised, it was confirmed that while most MN-S staff were regular employees, some had ongoing or limited contracts. During the election period, operations would continue as usual, with no new announcements, events, or citizen engagements; spending would be restricted to existing funding authorities and the approved budget.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Billy Kennedy)

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

WHEREAS it is past practice that MN-S owned assets assigned to the Executive and Regional Representatives are returned before an MN-S Election;

WHEREAS an MN-S Election for Executive and Regional Representatives has been called for May 24, 2025 (Resolution #MNLA250125-04); and

WHEREAS the Finance Committee resolved at their meeting on January 29, 2025, to recommend to the PMC that Executive and Regional Representatives return MN-S owned assets before the MN-S Election (Resolution #FC-250129-05);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the PMC approves that the following MN-S owned assets currently assigned to Executive or Regional Representatives be returned by March 14, 2025, to the MN-S head office, by 12:00 p.m. to allow for sufficient time for reconciliation of accounts:

- Vehicle rentals
- MN-S owned vehicles
- Credit cards
- Fleet cards
- Gas cards; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the PMC approves that all other MN-S owned assets assigned to Executive and Regional Representatives including cell phones, laptops, chargers, iPads, and other accessories be returned to MN-S head office by 12:00 p.m. on April 17, 2025.

CARRIED (250218-04)

Request for Action (RFA-250218-02)

It was requested that the Finance Department report back to the Provincial Métis Council when all MN-S owned assets listed in Resolution #250218-04 have been returned by Executive and Regional Representatives.

Request for Action (RFA-250218-03)

It was requested that the Finance Department provide an updated list of MN-S owned assets to the Provincial Métis Council.

8.3 Setting the Dates for the 2026-2027 MNLAs

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Resolution, “Setting the Dates of the 2026-2027 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly”

Scheduling future MNLAs aligned with past practice and allowed time to secure venues.

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

WHEREAS Article 3.10 of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation –Saskatchewan* authorizes the Provincial Métis Council to set the date and place for each sitting of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MNLAs be held at Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth Street West, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on the following dates:

- 2026:
 - o Spring 2026 MNLA: May 22-24, 2026
 - o Fall 2026 MNLA: November 20-22, 2026
- 2027:
 - o Spring 2027 MNLA: May 28-30, 2027
 - o Fall 2027 MNLA: November 19-21, 2027.

CARRIED (250218-05)

Change in Chair

Matt Vermette, Chief Operating Officer, assumed the Chair for consideration of the next agenda item.

8.4 Appointment of the MNLA Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Resolution, “Appointment of Speaker and Deputy Speaker for Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly”

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Potential considerations related to selecting a Speaker and Deputy Speaker, including encouraging gender balance to ensure diversity in these roles, and publicly posting the positions, to provide MN-S citizens an opportunity to apply
- Clarifying that :
 - o The appointment of John Lagimodiere as Speaker would be a renewal, while the appointment of Mike Nolin as Deputy Speaker would be a new appointment
 - o The Speaker and Deputy Speaker positions were last advertised approximately two years ago, but no applications were received
- Appointing for 2025 only, to allow the incoming PMC to make longer-term appointments.

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 2:35 p.m. and reconvened at 2:55 p.m.

It was MOVED (Brent Digness) and SECONDED (Glen McCallum)

WHEREAS Article 5 of the *Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly Act, 1999*, directs the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) to appoint a Speaker and Deputy Speaker for the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA), which must be ratified by the MNLA;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the PMC appoints John Lagimodiere as Speaker and Mike Nolin as Deputy Speaker of the MNLA, for the next MNLA in 2025.

CARRIED (250218-06)

Change in Chair

John Lagimodiere re-assumed the Chair at 3:00 p.m.

8.5 Amending the Date of the July 2025 MNLA

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Resolution, “Amending the Date of the July 2025 MNLA”

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Glen McCallum)

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

WHEREAS Article 3.10 of the *Constitution of the Métis Nation –Saskatchewan* authorizes the PMC to set the date and place for each sitting of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA);

WHEREAS the PMC at their duly held meeting on January 21, 2025, set the date for a session of the MNLA of July 4-6, 2025, pending venue availability (Resolution #250121-03);

WHEREAS to accommodate a July MNLA date, planning and notices would occur during the election period, defined in the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007* as 35 days before election day, which is not feasible due to election period restrictions on the MN-S public service; and

WHEREAS Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth Street West, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, is a trusted partner of the MN-S in holding MNLAs and cannot accommodate the July 4-6, 2025, dates;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT an MNLA be held at Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth Street West, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on September 5-7, 2025, instead of July 4-6, 2025.

CARRIED (250218-07)

8.6 Elected Official Harassment Policy

Related information (provided with the agenda): Resolution provided “Elected Official Harassment Policy”

Riva Farrell Racette, Legal Counsel, MLT Aikins LLP, reviewed the proposed Elected Official Harassment Policy, designed to safeguard PMC members and officials while establishing a formal process for handling complaints. Additional comments were offered on:

- Similar policies from other governments and organizations that informed the policy
- The recommendation that the policy should not be implemented retroactively
- Potential conflicts between the proposed policy and the *Handbook for the Executive, Ministers and Members of the PMC* and *Interim Code of Conduct - Conflict of Interest Policy*
- The scope of the proposed policy, which would not apply during official proceedings such as PMC meetings or an MNLA
- Potentially incorporating the proposed policy into a more comprehensive, updated *Code of Conduct – Conflict of Interest Policy*
- “Tabs” in the draft Elected Official Harassment Policy that refer to comments and considerations provided by legal counsel, not intended to form part of the final document.

The draft resolution was introduced to approve the “Elected Official Harassment Policy”. During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Resolving inconsistencies between the proposed policy and the current *Handbook for the Executive, Ministers and Members of the PMC* and *Interim Code of Conduct - Conflict of Interest Policy*

- Contradictions in the proposed policy, for example who is the “Chair of the PMC”, and further clarification regarding the rights of a complainant or respondent
- Scheduling a PMC Information Session to review and clarify the policy, given its priority
- Regarding the *Handbook for the Executive, Ministers and Members of the PMC*, the need for:
 - o Adherence to current, established processes
 - o An update from the HR Committee on proposed revisions
- The current scope of the proposed policy, which would be applied in favour of, and enforceable against, members of the PMC; in contrast to the scope of the *MN-S Public Service Human Resources Manual*, which every MN-S employee had signed.

With the consent of the Mover and Seconder, the draft resolution presented on the “Elected Official Harassment Policy”, was withdrawn and would be considered at a future PMC Meeting.

Request for Action (RFA-250218-04)

It was requested that staff schedule a virtual PMC Information Session on February 21, 2025, to review the proposed “Elected Official Harassment Policy”.

9. FINANCE UPDATE

9.1 Financial Accountability for Elected Officials

Marg Friesen, Minister of Finance, reviewed the MN-S internal travel policy for elected officials, and the results of a recent internal review of expenditures, which identified instances of some incorrectly coded or unauthorized expenses. It was agreed that this matter could be further considered during the in-camera discussion.

10. CONCLUSION

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

That the February 18, 2025, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting now conclude, for an in-camera discussion.

CARRIED (250218-08)

Time: 5:00 p.m.

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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

The following items are attached to these minutes:

- List of Information Items
- List of Acronyms

LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

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

1. Provincial Métis Council Meeting Roll Call
2. Draft Agenda for the February 18, 2025, MN-S PMC Meeting
3. Draft Minutes of the January 21, 2025, MN-S PMC Meeting
4. Resolution titled, “Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors Appointment for Northern Region 1”
5. Resolution titled, “Return of MN-S Owned Assets Before the 2025 MN-S Election”
6. Resolution titled, “Setting the Dates of the 2026-2027 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly”
7. Resolution titled, “Appointment of Speaker and Deputy Speaker for Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly”
8. Resolution titled, “Amending the Date of July 2025 MNLA”
9. Resolution titled, “Elected Official Harassment Policy”
10. Project Detail Budget & Actual Report (Ministry Detail)
11. A Guide for Candidates
12. Self-Government Agreements titled, “Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreements between Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and Canada”

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

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