



**MÉTIS NATION – SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL MEETING**
held January 21, 2025

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting held January 21, 2025, by videoconference, prepared from recording by Diane Parsons, Recording Secretary.

PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL:

Present:

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| Glen McCallum, President | Marg Friesen, Eastern Region 3 |
| Michelle LeClair, Vice President | Loretta King, Western Region 1 |
| Lisa McCallum, Secretary | Sherry McLennan, Western Region 2 |
| Laura Burnouf, Northern Region 1 | Kathie Pruden Nansel, Western Region 2A |
| Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region 3 | Wendy Gervais, Western Region 3 |
| Ryan Carriere, Eastern Region 1 | Autumn Laing-LaRose, Provincial Métis Youth Council |
| Brent Digness, Eastern Region 2 | Darlene Langan, Les Filles de Madelaine |
| Tim Roussin, Eastern Region 2A | |

Absent/Regrets:

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| Leonard Montgrand, Northern Region 2 | Billy Kennedy, Western Region 1A |
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ALSO PRESENT:

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| John Lagimodiere, Chair | Riva Farrell Racette, Legal Counsel, MLT Aikins LLP |
| Elder Norman Fleury | |

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

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| Richard Quintal, Chief Executive Officer | Jason Mercredi, Director of Child and Family Services |
| Matt Vermette, Chief Operating Officer | Heather Hallgrimson, Legislative Coordinator, Policy and Self Determination |
| Hilary Peterson, General Counsel | |
| Echo Qin, Director of Finance | |

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Lagimodiere, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Elder Norman Fleury provided an Opening Prayer.

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 January 21, 2025, MN-S PMC Meeting

Staff was reminded to inform PMC members when their requested agenda items were included on the agenda, and to specify whether the items were on the regular or in-camera agenda.

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

That the Agenda for the January 21, 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
 - 6.2 Adoption of December 17, 2024, PMC Minutes
7. Resolution:
 - 7.1 Cancellation of the February 8-9, 2025 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) and April 4-6, 2025 MNLA
8. Financial Update:
 - 8.1 Presentation of Variance Analysis (Request for Action #RFA-240919-03)
 - 8.2 Our Moment Budget Update (Request for Action #RFA-241118-01)
9. Update on Bill C-92 and Community Engagement
10. Legal Update:
 - 10.1 Election Update
 - 10.2 Workplace Harassment Update
11. In-Camera Discussion
12. Conclusion and Closing Prayer.

CARRIED (250121-01)

5. OPENING REMARKS

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

- Progress in expanding the MN-S and strengthening partnerships and relationships
- Ensuring that discussions on reconciliation were backed by meaningful actions
- Benefits of hosting the 2025 Louis Riel Cup Hockey Tournament in April 2025, including excitement for the games, community engagement and partnership-building
- Ongoing growth of the MN-S registry, reflecting support and confidence in MN-S' initiatives
- Promoting Métis identity, culture, values, language and distinctions-based planning.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Minutes of the December 17, 2024, MN-S PMC Meeting

It was MOVED and SECONDED

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

- Appointment of Diane Parsons as Recording Secretary for the January 21, 2025, PMC Meeting
- Adoption of the Minutes of the December 17, 2024, PMC Meeting.

CARRIED (250121-02)

7. RESOLUTIONS

7.1 Cancellation of the February 8-9, 2025 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) and April 4-6, 2025 MNLA

Related information: Draft Resolution, “Cancellation of the February 8-9, 2025 MNLA and April 4-6, 2025 MNLA”

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Convening of an MNLA and Annual General Assembly (AGA) to promote transparency and opportunities for citizens to actively participate in governance
- Triggering an AGA, based on work completed and resolutions passed at an MNLA
- Managing the MN-S governance funding envelope, including costs of the recent MNLA, the upcoming election, and additional fees incurred due to a late MNLA venue cancellation
- Ensuring that an MNLA is not influenced by potential campaign activities
- Approval of the MN-S budget by the PMC, followed by its ratification at the subsequent MNLA
- PMC’s responsibility for setting MNLA dates and locations, to be held twice annually
- Scheduling the Spring MNLA during MN-S election years, and ensuring dates are compatible
- Resource strains due to delays in constitutional reform and treaty negotiations with Canada
- Clarification that the 2025 Louis Riel Cup Hockey Tournament would be funded through dedicated sponsor resources.

Health Break

The meeting recessed from approximately 10:40 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.

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

WHEREAS the *Constitution* requires that the MNLA shall meet at least twice a year (Article 2.6);

WHEREAS at their duly held meeting on November 21, 2023, the PMC set the dates for upcoming sessions of the MNLA (PMC Resolution #231121-05). The dates set for 2025 were a Spring 2025 MNLA on April 4-6, 2025, a Fall 2025 MNLA on November 28-30, 2025, and a Special MNLA on February 8-9, 2025, to consider matters of self-government and treaty making;

WHEREAS at their duly held meeting on November 18, 2024, the PMC resolved that a Special MNLA would be held on January 25, 2025, to set the date and confirm details for the 2025 MN-S Election for Executive and Regional Representatives (PMC Resolution #241118-07);

WHEREAS, to allow for a condensed timeline to hold a General Assembly in 2024, the PMC confirmed on April 19, 2024, that the Fall 2024 MNLA would be held in Regina, SK, due to venue availability (PMC Resolution #240419-07);

WHEREAS holding an MNLA in Regina resulted in cost overruns due to additional fees for items including travel and hotel costs, and for audio visual services provided by the venue;

WHEREAS the PMC has affirmed its collective responsibility as the Executive Branch of the MN-S government, which is the authority granted to the PMC in the *Constitution* which names the

PMC as the Cabinet, and that this responsibility includes financial stewardship and governance decisions (PMC Resolution #210618-07);

WHEREAS an MN-S Election for the Executive and Regional Representatives is planned for May 24, 2025, pending approval by the MNLA at the January 25, 2025, Special MNLA; and

WHEREAS the PMC recognizes that convening a session of the MNLA so close to the 2025 MN-S Election may undermine effective governance and could be perceived as an opportunity for political campaigning;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC approves cancelling the Spring 2025 MNLA scheduled April 4-6, 2025, to promote effective governance and prudent fiscal management of MN-S resources;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC confirms that an in-person MNLA will be scheduled July 4-6, 2025, with the location to be set at a future date by the PMC, pending venue availability; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC approves cancelling the February 8-9, 2025, Special MNLA that was scheduled to consider matters related to treaty making, and affirms that this MNLA may be rescheduled when the government-to-government treaty with Canada is ready for ratification.

CARRIED (250121-03)

Minister McLennan voted in opposition

Request for Action (RFA-250121-01)

It was requested that staff clarify which meetings in the 2025 Provincial Métis Council (PMC) meeting schedule, approved on November 18, 2024, would be held virtually or in-person.

8. FINANCIAL UPDATE

8.1 Presentation of Variance Analysis (Request for Action #RFA-240919-03)

Related information: Presentation titled, “MN-S 2024/25 Variance Report: for the period ended on September 30, 2024”

The Minister of Finance reported that the MN-S was in good standing with the Government of Canada, and that the audited financial statements passed at the Fall 2024 MNLA had been provided to funders.

Health Break

The meeting recessed from approximately 11:35 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.

Echo Qin, Director of Finance, reviewed the presentation provided, including a review of the Statement of Operations for the first two quarters of the current fiscal year, and offered the following comments:

- “Salaries, Wages and Benefits” were under budget due to the delayed start of some projects; this variance would likely narrow during the third quarter
- Speaker fee expenses for the Cultural and Heritage Department and the Policy Department had been incurred; the remaining budget for “Speaker Fees and Gifts” would be primarily utilized by the Land and Environment Department and the Health Department
- Some expenses allocated to “Networking and Relationship Development”, would be reviewed to clarify whether they were coded and allocated correctly
- “Contracted Services” was under budget, due to the transition of previously outsourced services, to an internal function.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Addressing governance capacity at the Local level through program funding, and treaty negotiations with the federal government
- Examples of some expenses included in the following budget line items:
 - o “Grants to Citizens” – supports to citizens, including assistance for medical travel, healthy lifestyle programs, and educational and recreational activities for youth
 - o “Networking and Relationship Development” – sponsorship of events and tournaments, and expenses to participate in community and partner events
 - o “Advertising and Promotion” – media expenses incurred in the “Our Moment” campaign, and other publication-related expenses
 - o “Grants to External Parties” – grants to the Gabriel Dumont Institute and school divisions
- The MN-S’ “optimal credit rating” with Canada, based on strong reporting and program delivery; as a result, a significant portion of annual funding was provided by Canada at the beginning of the funding cycle.

Health Break

The meeting recessed from approximately 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

8.2 Our Moment Budget Update (Request for Action #RFA-241118-01)

The Director of Finance advised that there had been no spending on the “Our Moment” budget since the campaign’s suspension on November 18, 2024.

During discussion, it was confirmed that:

- Some “Our Moment” billboard advertisements were still visible, as the advertising company had not yet leased the space to another client
- Contractual payments for “Our Moment” advertising services were largely completed in the second quarter of the current fiscal year
- The November 1-3, 2024 MNLA was funded through the fiscal year budget, while the cancelled November 23, 2024 General Assembly was budgeted under the “Our Moment” campaign
- After suspension of the “Our Moment” campaign, the remainder of funds allocated to a contractor, were redirected to support lobbying to sustain the self-government process
- Funding to-date for the “Our Moment” campaign, was covered by “self-government funding” through the Interim Fiscal Financing Agreement
- Audited financial statements and schedules, reflected the detailed expenditures
- Due to delayed treaty negotiations, treaty ratification capacity funding had not been released.

Request for Action (RFA-250121-02)

It was requested that staff provide the PMC with a detailed accounting of expenditures incurred during the “Our Moment” campaign, up to the date of the campaign’s suspension.

Request for Action (RFA-250121-03)

It was requested that Secretary Lisa McCallum be provided with copies of all self-government agreements signed by the MN-S since 2019.

9. UPDATE ON BILL C-92 AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Related information:

- Presentation titled, “For Our Children, For Our Future: 2024-2025 Phase 2: Community Engagements”
- “Community Report, Government Engagement Mechanisms: An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families”

The Minister of Child and Family Services provided an overview of progress on the Bill C-92 community consultation process, the approach for reporting back to the community on key insights and feedback gathered during the consultations, and how those priorities and feedback were incorporated into a draft model of care. An increase in youth feedback was noted during the second phase of the consultations. A key theme heard during the consultations, was that child and family services must remain a priority for the MN-S.

The Director of Child and Family Services provided an overview of the presentation, including a review of Bill C-92 and its relevance to MN-S, the first two phases of the “Our Children, Our Future: Our Roadmap to Jurisdiction” workplan, key findings, and an overview of Phases 3 and 4. In response to queries, additional comments were provided on:

- A recent focus on engagement with community, which would pave the way for meetings with provincial representatives to identify shared priorities and establish collaborative strategies
- Support for creating a distinctions-based dispute resolution mechanism, and developing coordination agreements with the province to enhance cooperation
- Working with other Indigenous Governing Bodies towards coordination agreements.

Health Break

The meeting recessed from approximately 2:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

10. LEGAL UPDATE

10.1 Election Update

Related information: Presentation titled, “The Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007”

Riva Farrell Racette, Legal Counsel, MLT Aikins LLP, provided an overview of the presentation, and explained the appointment and responsibilities of the Chief Electoral Officer.

It was confirmed that the MN-S was drafting a policy for employees who chose to run in a provincial election, which would specify that employees’ positions would be protected; however, they would be required to take an unpaid leave of absence during the writ period. Additionally, staff would not be permitted to use MN-S equipment or resources for election-related activities.

Request for Action (RFA-250121-04)

It was requested that staff contact the Chief Electoral Officer to clarify the length of time a citizen must reside in a Local, before being eligible to run for elected office; and, to confirm the writ period dates, for the upcoming May 2025 MN-S election.

10.2 Workplace Harassment Update

Related information: Presentation titled, “Preventing Workplace Harassment and Violence”

Riva Farrell Racette, Legal Counsel, MLT Aikins LLP, provided an overview of the presentation, and a review of laws around workplace harassment and violence, employer obligations to provide a safe work environment and to have a workplace harassment policy, examples of events of harassment and outcomes, and employer duties to investigate.

During discussion, comments were provided on:

- Teaching workplace harassment and violence concepts, at a distinctions-based workshop
- Engaging in respectful and mindful discussions about origin and identity, and ensuring the integrity of the MN-S citizenship registry.

Request for Action (RFA-250121-05)

It was requested that staff prepare a draft “PMC Harassment Policy” for review at the next PMC meeting.

11. IN-CAMERA

It was agreed to now conclude the meeting and convene an in-camera discussion.

It was MOVED (Glen McCallum) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)

That the January 21, 2025, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council Meeting now conclude for an in-camera discussion.

CARRIED (250121-04)

Time: 4:00 p.m.

12. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting concluded at approximately 4:00 p.m. with a Closing Prayer offered by Elder Fleury.

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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 January 21, 2025, MN-S PMC Meeting
3. Draft Minutes of the December 17, 2024, MN-S PMC Meeting
4. Draft Resolution titled, “Cancellation of the February 8-9, 2025 MNLA and April 4-6, 2025 MNLA”
5. Presentation titled, “MN-S 2024/25 Variance Report: for the period ended on September 30, 2024”
6. Presentation titled, “For Our Children, For Our Future: 2024-2025 Phase 2: Community Engagements”
7. Report titled, “Community Report, Government Engagement Mechanisms: *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*”
8. Presentation titled, “Preventing Workplace Harassment and Violence”

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

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| MN-S | Métis Nation – Saskatchewan |
| PMC | Provincial Métis Council |
| MNLA | Métis Nation Legislative Assembly |
| AGA | Annual General Assembly |