



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

Minutes of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) Provincial Métis Council (PMC) Meeting held March 18, 2025, by videoconference, prepared by Diane Parsons, Recording Secretary.

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
(left at 11:20 a.m.)
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

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

Matt Vermette, Chief Operating Officer
Darryl Bazylak, Deputy Chief, Programs and Services
Dorothy Myo, Deputy Chief, Self-Government
Hilary Peterson, Acting Senior General Counsel /
Deputy Chief
Kelly Pruden, Deputy Chief, Infrastructure

Mattieu Gaudet, Acting Director, Housing and
Homelessness
Echo Qin, Director of Finance
Heather Hallgrimson, Acting Cabinet and
Legislative Services Manager – Policy & Self
Determination

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Lagimodiere, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m. and acknowledged the traditional lands on which the meeting was being held.

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 March 18, 2025, MN-S PMC Meeting

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

That the Agenda for the March 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 Approval of the Recording Secretary
 - 6.2 Approval of January 21, 2025, and February 18, 2025, PMC Minutes
7. Requested Action Items
8. Resolutions:
 - 8.1 Draft MN-S Operating Budget for 2025-26
 - 8.2 Provincial Métis Youth Council Election 2025
 - 8.3 Setting the Date and Order of the Day for a Virtual Métis Nation Legislative Assembly in April 2025
 - 8.4 Deputy Speaker for the Virtual MNLA in April 2025
9. Financial Update
10. In-Camera.

CARRIED (250318-01)

5. OPENING REMARKS

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

- The growth of the MN-S and the importance of reviewing and approving the annual budget
- Strengthening relationships and negotiations with governments and key institutions, and securing funding for staff, regional capacity and Local needs
- Investing in public relations to support ongoing progress.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Related information (provided with agenda): Draft Minutes of the January 21, 2025, and February 18, 2025, MN-S PMC Meetings

In response to questions, the following clarifications were provided:

- Verbatim statements from attendees were not included in MN-S PMC Minutes
- Recordings of regular PMC meetings were available to PMC members upon request
- The resolution to adopt the draft “Elected Official Harassment Policy”, presented at the February 18, 2025 PMC meeting was withdrawn; therefore, the policy was not in affect.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Laura Burnouf)

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 March 18, 2025, PMC Meeting

- Adoption of the Minutes of the January 21, 2025, and February 18, 2025, MN-S PMC Meetings.

CARRIED (250318-02)

7. REQUESTED ACTION ITEMS

Related information (provided with agenda): List of Requests for Action of the February 18, 2025, PMC Meeting (Regular)

Regarding “Request for Action #RFA250218-01”, it was confirmed that budgets related to self-government agreements signed by the MN-S, were reflected in the overall MN-S budget.

8. RESOLUTIONS

8.1 Draft MN-S Operating Budget for 2025-2026

Related information (provided with the agenda): Presentation titled, “Draft Budget 2025-2026”, and Draft Resolution on the “Draft MN-S Operating Budget for 2025-2026”

Marg Friesen, Minister of Finance, introduced the Draft MN-S Operating Budget for 2025-2026 and offered comments on:

- The expansion of childcare services, 250 additional new spaces
- Enhanced support for first-time homebuyers, homelessness and mental health services
- Launch of a mobile outreach program for housing, health, education and social services
- Strengthening support for Elders, including those wishing to age in place
- Identifying locations for new treatment and recovery centres
- An increase of 5,000 registered MN-S citizens
- Continued progress towards self-governance
- Addressing economic challenges through programs and services to support MN-S citizens.

Echo Qin, Director of Finance, provided additional comments on:

- Expenses tied to signed contracts, and direction from funders and leadership to allocate budgets to programs and citizens
- Continued operations with no new ministries, and funding distributed according to existing agreements
- MN-S election costs, to be covered through self-generated interest income
- Planned investments of \$87.6M in capital projects, focused on early learning and childcare centres, and housing
- Using the 2024-2025 carryover to maintain a balanced budget, which maximizes impacts and allows for grants to directly benefit citizens
- A grant strategy to reduce external grants and increase support for Locals and Regions.

During discussion and in response to questions, comments were offered on:

- Negotiating with federal government to secure increased governance funding for Locals
- Encouraging collaboration between Locals and Regions, to support awareness of services provided to citizens
- The MN-S’ receipt of \$8.9M annually through the Canada-Métis Nation Sub-Accord on Post-Secondary Education, with distribution co-managed with the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI)
- Efforts to secure additional post-secondary funding in response to citizens’ growing demands
- An allocation of \$14M in Indigenous Skills and Employment Training funding from the MN-S to the GDI, to administer the program
- Infrastructure spending, including capital expenditures, employee salaries, and fees for engineering, architectural and legal services

- The capital expenditure budget estimated at \$81M for 2024-2025, with a projected increase to \$83.6M in 2025-2026
- The phasing out of the Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples program and efforts to maintain support for Locals' language and cultural programming.

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

During continued discussion, comments were offered on:

- Programs supporting home repairs and energy efficiency:
 - o A reduction in 2025-2026 funding for the Home Repair Grant program, enabled increased investment in the Energy Efficiency Grant program
 - o Funding was secured in 2025-2026, to support the Energy Efficiency Grant program and the Greener Homes Initiative
 - o The Saskatchewan Power Home Efficiency Initiative applied to citizens using electric heat
 - o The application processes for the Home Repair Grant and Energy Efficiency Grant, would be reviewed to improve clarity for citizens
- Funding for Back to Batoche, sourced from department budgets, administration fee recovery, and sponsorships
- The "Language Nest Program", designed to establish community-level language nests, supported by MN-S grants to Locals
- Funding for teaching resources, staffing, and programming, in the Language Ministry budget
- Funding for transition shelters, included under "Mental Health and Addictions", accessible in collaboration with the Social Infrastructure Department
- Capital investments to build transition shelters in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert
- \$150,000 carried over from 2024-2025, for exploring the concept of Urban Councils
- The draft MN-S Operating Budget for 2025-2026, being presented to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly in September 2025; the PMC would soon receive printed copies
- The objective to involve Ministers closely, during budget preparation processes
- Establishing Local Support Units to provide governance, citizen engagement, financial resources, training and administrative supports.

It was MOVED (Marg Friesen) and SECONDED (Loretta King)

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 the *Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan* in Article 2.10 states that "all budgets shall be determined by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, based upon the recommendations of the Provincial Métis Council";

WHEREAS the MN-S adheres to established financial standards and accounting policies for all funds received on behalf of Métis citizens of Saskatchewan;

WHEREAS the MN-S is committed to delivering on the commitments made to funding partners and citizens;

WHEREAS the MN-S Finance Committee reviewed and unanimously approved the “Draft Budget 2025-2026” at their duly held meeting on March 3, 2025 (Resolution #FC-250303-03); and

WHEREAS the PMC reviewed the “Draft Budget 2025-2026” at a PMC Budget Workshop on March 10, 2025;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC approves the “Draft Budget 2025-2026” as presented at their duly held meeting on March 18, 2025 and recommends it to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly for ratification at the next sitting of the Assembly; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC approves and recommends the “Draft Budget 2025-2026” within their authority as Directors of the Métis Nation-Secretariat Inc. as per the Bylaws of the Métis Nation-Secretariat Inc.

CARRIED (250318-03)

Ministers McLennan and Pruden-Nansel voted in opposition

8.2 Provincial Métis Youth Council Election 2025

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Resolution on the “Provincial Métis Youth Council Election”

Discussion ensued on the logistics of holding Les Filles de Madelaine elections, in the Fall of 2025.

It was MOVED (Autumn Laing-LaRose) and SECONDED (Marg Friesen)

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 the last election for the Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC) President was in the Fall of 2021, and the PMYC Election was endorsed by the PMC (Resolution #210720-07);

WHEREAS the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) set an election for the Executive and Regional Representatives of the PMC on May 24, 2025 (Resolution #MNLA250125-02);

WHEREAS it is prudent that the election for the next PMYC President be held within the same year as the election for the Executive and Regional Representatives of the PMC, so that the next PMYC President has the opportunity to be fully involved and engaged in the strategic planning and onboarding process that will take place in 2025;

WHEREAS there are funds currently allocated in the draft 2025-2026 MN-S Operating Budget to support an online election for the PMYC; and

WHEREAS election rules for the 2021 election for the PMYC President were developed, attached as Annex A - “Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Métis Youth Council Youth President Election Rules”, which will require an update, but serve as a basis for the development of rules for a 2025 PMYC Election;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC supports an online election for the PMYC in 2025, to be held as soon as practical after the 2025 MN-S Election on May 24, 2025 to ensure that the PMYC President can benefit from strategic planning and onboarding that will occur for the newly elected Executive and Regional Representatives in 2025;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC confirms that the budget allocated to the PMYC online election are the funds currently included in the draft 2025-2026 MN-S Operating Budget for a Youth Election;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC recommends that the PMYC approve updated rules for the 2025 PMYC election that align with the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007* and directs that those rules be provided to the PMC for information before the PMYC election is held; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC confirms that the Chief Electoral Officer appointed by the MNLA (Resolution #MNLA210220-12) will conduct the 2025 PMYC election according to the election rules established by the PMYC.

CARRIED (250318-04)

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

8.3 Setting the Date and Order of the Day for a Virtual Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) in April 2025

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Resolution, “Setting the Date and Order of the Day for a Virtual April MNLA”

Hilary Peterson, Acting Senior General Counsel / Deputy Chief, reviewed Article 120 of the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007*, which indicated that the MNLA must appoint an Adjudicator for the MN-S election.

Dorothy Myo, Deputy Chief, Self-Government, outlined the proposed process for the appointment of an Adjudicator.

During discussion, comments were offered on:

- Allowing complaints by citizens as a result of the 2025 MN-S election to be settled through the Court of King’s Bench
- Clarifying that the January 25, 2025, MNLA directive was for a specific appointment only
- Posting the Adjudicator position for the 2025 MN-S election, with applications submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer for direct presentation to the MNLA
- The Chief Electoral Officer’s appointment by the MNLA for a seven-year term.

It was MOVED (Brent Digness) 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 Article 2.8 of the *Constitution* requires that any session of the MNLA requires 30 days' notice to Local Presidents and the PMC;

WHEREAS Articles 6.2 and 6.3 of the *Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly Act, 1999*, as amended, directs the Clerk of the MNLA, as defined in Article 2.4 of the *Act*, to draft an agenda for the MNLA as directed by the PMC and to compile the necessary documentation for the Order of the Day;

WHEREAS an MN-S Election for the Executive and Regional Representatives is scheduled for May 24, 2025 (MNLA250125-04);

WHEREAS on January 21, 2025, the MNLA appointed a Complaints Officer for the 2025 MN-S Election (MNLA250125-06), but did not appoint an Adjudicator; and

WHEREAS the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007*, in Article 120 states that the MNLA shall appoint an Adjudicator to hear any complaints referred by the Complaints Officer, and a posting for Elections Adjudicator will be open from March 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025, and the applications will be reviewed solely by the MN-S Chief Electoral Officer who will make a recommendation to the MNLA for appointment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC, approves that a virtual MNLA will be held in exactly 30 days on April 17, 2025, in accordance with the *Constitution*, Article 2.8;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that for the April 17, 2025 virtual MNLA, the PMC confirms that the Chief Electoral Officer will fairly and impartially vet all applications for the role of Adjudicator, to perform the duties described in the *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007*, and that the Chief Electoral Officer will recommend the name of a person for the position of Adjudicator to the MNLA for appointment at the April 17, 2025 virtual MNLA; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC approves the Order of the Day as follows for the Virtual MNLA on April 17, 2025, as proposed by the Clerk of the MNLA:

AGENDA – APRIL 17, 2025

1. Opening Prayer – Lii Vyeu Moond
2. Roll Call – Richard Quintal, Clerk of the MNLA
3. Appointment of Deputy Speaker for the April 17, 2025, MNLA
4. Adoption of the Agenda/Order of the Day
5. Appointment of the Recording Secretary
6. Resolution:
 - 6.1 Appointment of the Adjudicator
7. Closing Prayer – Lii Vyeu Moond.

CARRIED (250318-05)

8.4 Deputy Speaker for the April 17, 2025, Virtual Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA)

Related information (provided with the agenda): Draft Resolution, “Deputy Speaker for the April 17, 2025, Virtual MNLA”

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

WHEREAS Article 5 of the *Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly Act*, 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;

WHEREAS the MNLA at their duly held Assembly on May 27, 2023, appointed John Lagimodiere and Merelda Fiddler-Potter to two-year terms (Resolution #MNLA230527-02); and

WHEREAS Merelda Fiddler-Potter has since resigned from the Deputy Speaker position;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PMC recommends the appointment of Mike Nolin as Deputy Speaker only for the April 17, 2025 virtual MNLA, subject to ratification by the MNLA.

CARRIED (250318-06)

Health Break

The meeting recessed at 2:15 p.m. and reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

9. FINANCIAL UPDATE

There being no further updates, this item was not considered.

10. CONCLUSION

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

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

CARRIED (250318-07)

Time: 2:30 p.m.

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 March 18, 2025, MN-S PMC Meeting
3. Draft Minutes of the January 21, 2025, MN-S PMC Meeting
4. Draft Minutes of the February 18, 2025, MN-S PMC Meeting
5. Presentation titled, "Draft Budget 2025-2026"
6. Resolution titled, "Draft MN-S Operating Budget for 2025-2026"
7. Resolution titled, "Provincial Métis Youth Council Election"
8. Resolution titled, "Setting the Date and Order of the Day for a Virtual April MNLA"
9. Resolution titled, "Deputy Speaker for the April 18, 2025, Virtual MNLA"

LIST OF ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are referenced in these minutes:

GDI	Gabriel Dumont Institute
MN-S	Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
PMC	Provincial Métis Council
MNLA	Métis Nation Legislative Assembly