

BY-LAWS OF THE METIS NATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

ST. LOUIS LOCAL 28

DRAFT COPY

BY-LAW 1: NAME OF ORGANIZATION

1. Metis Nation of Saskatchewan St. Louis Local 28.

BY-LAW 2: EXECUTIVE

1. There shall be four Executive members which will be voted on at the Local.
2. The Executive shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
3. The term of office for the Executive shall be for three years or can be called earlier by the President.
4. a) The President of Local 28 shall be the head of the Executive and chief political spokesperson for the Organization.  
b) The President shall assign and recommend portfolios subject to the approval of the Executive.
5. If needed the Executive will meet once a month and three Executive members will constitute a quorum. Either one of the four will be able to call the meeting.
6. The Executive shall give a report on any meeting affecting Local 28
7. Where a vacancy is created for any reason, the Executive will call an election from the Local membership at a monthly meeting and an interim Executive member and shall serve until the next election.

BY-LAW 3: LOCALS

1. a) The Local shall be made up of at least nine members.  
b) Nine members will constitute a quorum.
2. New members will be accepted by the Constitution of The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan and by the Local Executive.
3. The Executive will adopt rules pertaining to the admission and expulsion of non-Metis people.
4. Each Local shall be governed by an elected leadership as determined through the Constitution of the Local, which may be by ballot box or conducted at a General Assembly of the Local membership.
5. a) Any Metis who is sixteen years of age or older and is a member of Local 28 shall be entitled to vote.  
b) Any Metis who is sixteen years of age or older and is a member of Local 28 and good standing shall be entitled to seek office.
6. Local 28 shall enact a Constitution and By-Laws which is not inconsistent of the Provincial Constitution. Including the establishment of portfolios, committees or other bodies required to address community and other issues and such Local Constitutions shall be registered with the Regional and Head Office of the Organization.

7. The Locals shall provide yearly up-dates of their membership to the Regional and Head Office. Separating those members who are under sixteen years of age, from those sixteen and over.

8. Local 28 will have committees consisting of:

- Health & Education
- Intergovernment
- Environment & Land Claims
- Justice & Sentencing Circle
- Youth, Recreation & Cultural
- Economic/Gaming
- Metis Women & Human Resources
- Labor & Administration
- Wildlife
- Point Membership

9. Local 28 may seek the necessary finances and resources to carry out their programs, services and objectives.

10. Points System will be put in place for all members. These points will determine eligibility for benefits this recipients.

#### By-Law 4: ELECTIONS

1. Any member who is sixteen years of age or older may vote within

Local 28. Any person who is running for an Executive position in Local 28 must be a Local 28 member for a least 12 months.

2 a) Elections for Local 28 of the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly shall be held on the date set by Local 28 Executive. At the annually meeting of the third year. The Executive will call the Election and will be held on that date.

b) At that time the President will hand the chair to the Elder. At that time nominations and seconds will come forward. Time limit will be Elders choice. After the Election for the Executive the Committee Members will be nominated and elected.

3. Elections for Local 28 shall be held at least every three years with one month posted notice.

4. The Executive of Local 28 shall be elected by the majority of vote of the Local 28 at the Local polls by secret ballot.

5. a) A Metis Elections Committee composed of three members is empowered to oversee and conduct the general elections and by-elections of Local 28.

b) The terms of office of the Election Committee shall cease at the first regular meeting of Local 28.

c) The Election Committee shall be named by the Elder or Elders and shall be appointed at Local 28 regular monthly meeting one month prior to the Election.

d) When the election or by-election date has been set and the election called by the Local 28. The Election Committee shall have sole authority and responsibility to conduct the election and shall be independent and answerable only to the Elder or Elders.

e)The Elder or Elders shall appoint a chief electoral officer and other required personnel.

f)The Elder and Election Committee shall be responsible for official recounts and appeals.

g)The decisions of the Elder shall be final and binding, subject to the right of appeal to the Elder, which decision shall be final and binding.

6. The the event of a vacancy on the Executive of the Local 28 Executive shall appoint someone from the membership at the next monthly meeting until the end of term.

7. When nominations close and until candidates are unofficially elected, the Elder shall be solely responsible for conducting the affairs and activities of the Local.

8. All defeated or retiring candidates who were on the Executive prior to the election shall be entitled to receive their monetary salary to date and any records pertaining to the Local 28 shall be handed over.

#### BY-LAW 5; LOCAL 28 OF SASKATCHEWAN HEAD OFFICE

1. The Head Office shall be at the Community Centre in St. Louis with a designed office within the Community Centre.

#### BY-LAW 6: MEMBERSHIP

1. a)Membership is comprised of the Aboriginal People known as "Metis" and who meet the criteria in sub-section (b).

b)A Metis is a person of Aboriginal, who:

1. can provide proof of his/her ancestry;

2. declares himself/herself to be a Metis; and

3. meets one of the following tests:

a) is accepted as a Metis by the Metis community;

b) has traditionally held himself/herself out to be a Metis;

c) <sup>and</sup> has been recognized by the community-at-large as a Metis.

2. Any Metis who is a member of a duly registered Local is a member of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan.

3. A member shall only belong to one (1) Local.

4. Members shall be issued a membership card.

a) This card shall provide life-time membership in the Organization.

b) There shall be a fee for membership cards, this fee shall be governed by the membership.

c) Membership cards shall be numbered and a register maintained by the Executive in the Head Office and along with the local. Replacement cards shall retain the original number.

d) Membership cards shall be issued by the President or Secretary of a duly registered Local upon completion of the designed form.

5. Where there is a dispute as to membership, a ruling shall be made by the Senate, with a final right of appeal to the Metis Nation Assembly the decision of which shall be final and binding.

BY-LAW 7: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. A Annually Assembly, composed of members of the Local 28, shall be convoned by the Executive every year.

2. The Annually Assembly shall provide a Forum whereby the members of the Local 28 will receive information, review developments and provide guidance to the Executive and discuss, clarify, amend, vote on and ratify amendments to the Constitution.

BY-LAW 8: SENATE, WOMEN AND YOUTH

1. The Local 28 shall make these items a priority, and shall involve the Elders, Women and Youth in the determination of their role and responibilites within the Local 28.

2. The Metis Women of Local 28 shall be designated (1) seat in the Annual Assembly. This provision shall cease to apply when women have acheived equitable representation in the Local Executive and Local 28.

3. That appointments to vacancies as an Elder or Elders be made at Local 28 meetings; Further, that Elders appointments be for lifetime or until such time as the Elder is unable to fulfill his/her duties.

4. That the Elder of Elders be given power to resolve disputes occurring in Local 28. Futher that decisions of the Elder or Elders shall be final and binding.

5. That the Elder be represented by male or female.

BY-LAW 9: METIS INDEPENDENCE

1. Whereas the Metis are seeking self-government as a third order of government within Canada, the organization shall be non-sectarian and non-partisam.

2. The loyalty of the members of Local 28 must be to the Metis People and Nation, and shall swear an Oath of Allegiance prior to taking office.

3. The leadership shall be responsible and accountable to the members of Local 28, as reflected by the Local 28, which is the Supreme Body of Local 28 for the Metis within Local.

4. Members of Local 28 are not precluded from joining political parties of the two other orders of government, being the federal and provincial levels of government.

5. Any Local Executive member of the Local 28 who chooses to seek the nomination of any Provincial or Federal Political Party in any provincial or federal election shall take a leave of absence from his/her position.

BY-LAW 10: AMENDING FORMULA

1. The Constitution shall only be amended by the majority of 51% of the members present at the Annual Meeting.

BY-LAW 11: IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Constitution shall take effect upon its adoption by the Annual Assembly subject to amendments validly passed by 51% of the members present, and the conclusion of Annual Assembly. Upon the happening of these two conditions all previous By-Laws of the Local 28 are all invoid and this By-Law shall constitute the sole By-Laws of the Local 28, until otherwise determined by the Local 28.

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ST. LOUIS LOCAL 28

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4. Each Local shall be governed by an elected leadership as determined through the By-Laws of the Local, which may be by ballot box or conducted at a General Assembly of the Local membership.
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b) Any Metis who is sixteen years of age or older and is a member of Local 28 and good standing shall be entitled to seek office.
6. Local 28 shall enact By Laws which are not inconsistent of the Provincial Constitution, including the establishment of portfolios, committees or other bodies required to address community and other issues and such Local By-Laws shall be registered with the Regional and Head Office of the Organization.

7. The Locals shall provide yearly up-dates of their membership to the Region and Head Office, separating those members who are under sixteen years of age from those sixteen and over.
8. Local 28 will have committees consisting of:
  - Finance
  - Training and Employment
  - Education
  - Justice and Social Services
  - Human Resources, Labour and Administration
  - Health
  - Environment, Natural Resources and Land
  - Youth Recreation and Cultural
  - Economic Development and Trade
  - Communications
  - Intergovernment Affairs and Urban Development
  - Community Affairs, Education and Electoral Reform.
  - Point Membership
  - Housing
9. Local 28 may seek the necessary finances and resources to carry out their programs, services and objectives.
10. Points System will be put in place for all members. These points will determine eligibility for benefits to these recipients.

BY-LAW 4: ELECTIONS

1. Any member who is sixteen years of age or older may vote within Local 28. Any person who is running for an Executive position in Local 28 must be a Local 28 member for at least 12 months.
2.
  - a) Elections for Local 28 of the Metis Nation shall be held on the date set by Local 28 Executive, at the annual meeting of the third year.
  - b) At that time, the President will hand the chair to the Elder. At that time nominations and seconders will come forward. Time limit will be Elder's choice. After the Election for the Executive, the Committee Members will be nominated and elected.
3. Elections for Local 28 shall be held at least every three years with one month posted notice.
4. The Executive of Local 28 shall be elected by the majority of vote of the Local 28 at the Local polls by secret ballot.
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  - a) A Metis Elections Committee composed of three Local 28 members is empowered to oversee and conduct the general elections and by-elections of Local 28.
  - b) The terms of office of the Election Committee shall cease at the first regular meeting of Local 28.
  - c) The Election Committee shall be named by the Elder or Elders and shall be appointed at Local 28 regular monthly meeting one month prior to the Election and nominations for Executive will take place.

- d) When the election or by-election date has been set and the election called by the Local 28, the Election Committee shall have sole authority and responsibility to conduct the election and shall be independent and answerable only to the Elder or Elders.
  - e) The Elder or Elders shall appoint the Chief Electoral officer and other required personnel.
  - f) The Elder and Election Committee shall be responsible for official recounts and appeals. The decisions of the Elder shall be final and binding.
- 7. When nominations close and until candidates are officially elected, the Elder shall be solely responsible for conducting the affairs and activities of the Local.
  - 8. All defeated or retiring candidates who were on the Executive prior to the election shall be entitled to receive their monetary salary to date and any records pertaining to the Local 28 shall be handed over.

BY-LAW 5: LOCAL 28 OF SASKATCHEWAN HEAD OFFICE

- 1. The Head Office shall be at the Community Centre in St. Louis with a designated office within the Community Centre.

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- 1. a) Membership is comprised of the Aboriginal People known as "Metis" and who meet the criteria in sub-section (b)  
b) A Metis is a person of Aboriginal Ancestry who:
  - 1. Can provide proof of his/her ancestry;
  - 2. Declares himself/herself to be a Metis; and
  - 3. Meets one of the following tests:
    - a) is accepted as a Metis by the Metis community;
    - b) has traditionally held himself/herself out to be a Metis or
    - c) has been recognized by the community-at-large as a Metis.
- 2. Any Metis who is a member of a duly registered Local is a member of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan.
- 3. A member shall only belong to one (1) Local
- 4. Members shall be issued a membership card.
  - a) This card shall provide life-time membership in the Organization
  - b) There shall be a fee for membership cards. This fee shall be governed by the membership
  - c) Membership cards shall be numbered and a register maintained by the Executive in the Head Office and along with the local. Replacement Cards shall retain the original number.
  - d) Membership cards shall be issued by the President or Secretary of a duly registered Local upon completion of the designated form.
- 5. Where there is a dispute as to membership, a ruling shall be made by the Senate, with a final right of appeal to the Metis Nation Assembly, the decision of which shall be final and binding.

6. A person applying for a membership card shall come in person to a meeting with proof of family history.

BY-LAW 7: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. An Annual Assembly, composed of members of the Local 28, shall be called by the Executive every year.
2. The Annual Assembly shall provide a Forum whereby the members of the Local 28 will receive information, review developments and provide guidance to the Executive and discuss, clarify, amend, vote on and ratify amendments to the By-laws.

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2. The Metis Women of Local 28 shall be designated (1) seat in the Annual Assembly. This provision shall cease to apply when women have achieved equitable representation in the Local Executive in Local 28.
3. That appointments to vacancies as an Elder/Elders be made at Local 28 meetings; Further, that elders appointments be for a lifetime. If in the event that the Elder is unable to fulfill his/her duties, another Elder shall be appointed by Local 28.
4. That the Elder/Elders be given power to resolve disputes occurring in Local 28. The decisions of the Elder or Elders shall be final and binding.
5. That the Elders be represented equally by male and female.

BY-LAW 9: METIS INDEPENDENCE.

1. Whereas the Metis are seeking self-government as a third order of government within Canada, the organization shall be non-sectarian and non-partisan.
2. The loyalty of the members of Local 28 must be to the Metis People and Nation. The Executive Members shall swear an Oath of Allegiance prior to taking office.
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5. Any Local Executive member of Local 28 who chooses to seek the nomination of any Provincial or Federal political Party in any provincial or federal election shall take a leave of absence from his/her position.

BY-LAW 10: AMENDING FORMULA

1. The Constitution shall only be amended by the majority of 2/3 of the members present at the Annual Meeting.

BY-LAW 11: IMPLEMENTATION

1. The By-Laws shall take effect upon its adoption by the Annual Assembly subject to amendments validly passed by 2/3 of the members present, and the conclusion of Annual Assembly. Upon the happening of these two conditions all previous By-Laws of the Local 28 are all invalid and this By-Law shall constitute the sole By-Laws of the Local 28, until otherwise determined by the Local 28.