



April 30 1993

TO: MSS restructuring committee members
RE: Minutes to the last restructuring committee meeting

Dear member,

The following enclosures are the minutes to the MSS restructuring meeting held at 10:30 AM, at the MSS boardroom on April 26 1993. These minutes are on page 1. More detailed minutes follow on pages 2 to 9. The minutes of the two prior meetings, are on pages 10 and 11. Page 12 is a brief summary of the self-government conference.

All the members who attended this past meeting will receive a copy of these minutes.

Sincerely,


Ray D. Jones
MSS Researcher

The minutes to the MSS restructuring Committee meeting held at 10:30 AM, at the MSS board room on April 26 1993 are as follows:

In attendance were:

Gerald Morin
John Boucher
Delbert Major

Bev Laliberte
Bruce Flamont
Ray Jones

Philip Chartier
Isabelle Impey
Guy Bouvier

There was agreement on Gerald's understanding of the current MSS restructuring process. The first year in this 5 year time frame will include the Metis self-government conference, followed by area workshops in the 12 regions which will conclude by the end of June. An all presidents meeting will follow in the summer; and this will lead to the annual assembly in the fall where phase one will be implemented.

There was consensus on a motion by Gerald, seconded by Guy, that Philip and Ray work together on behalf of the restructuring committee to find ways to properly fund phase one.

There was consensus on a motion by Gerald, seconded by Guy, that Ray and GDI put together an information package (kit) that present the results of the self-government conference. This kit will be available to the membership.

There was consensus on a motion by Gerald, seconded by Bruce, that members of the restructuring committee use the media, such as New Breed and Missinipi radio, to inform the people of what we are doing in phase one. Furthermore, a monthly letter will go out to the locals between now and the annual assembly informing them of what we are doing.

There was consensus on a motion, seconded by Delbert, that the restructuring committee put together a poster to inform the people of the area workshops.

There was consensus on a motion by Gerald, seconded by Bruce, that the all presidents meeting will be held at Batoche this summer.

There was consensus to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 PM.

The detailed minutes to the MSS restructuring committee meeting held 10:30 AM, April 26 1993 at the MSS board room are as follows:

- in attendance were:

Gerald Morin	Bev Laliberte	Philip Chartier	John Boucher
Bruce Flamont	Isabelle Impey	Delbert Major	Ray Jones
			<i>Guy Bouvier</i>

Norman Hansen was unable to attend the meeting.

Ray Jones started by passing out the minutes to the last two MSS restructuring committee meetings held December 02 1992 and January 26 1993. Also included in the package was a brief summery of the Metis self-government conference held March 17, 18 and 19 1993.

Gerald: The sense I got from people who attended the conference was that it was the people who were driving the agenda, that they had their input, and that they were driving the organization, and that the future of the organization was positive. The way I see the current situation is like this:

What we have here now is the MSS restructuring committee with Ray Jones as our technical person. We have a 5 year time frame to implement restructuring within the MSS. We want to implement this in phases. This committee already agreed that we want to implement phase 1 at our annual assembly in the fall. Phase 1 will include: The self-government conference. The next step will be to have area workshops; and if we are going to have these workshops, they need to be completed by the end of June. These workshops should be highly formalized, where we have 2 or 3 members of this committee attend. After the workshops, we discussed having a provincial conference this summer - I would suggest that Batoche be the location for the sake of finances. After this we are looking at the annual assembly in the fall to implement phase 1. I spoke to some people on restructuring and the response I got was very positive. So this is the way I see it; do other here see it the same way?

John: Yes, I agree. We have to go out to the Communities to explain what is happening, so we know what is happening at the grassroots level. The grassroots people want to know how they are going to be involved in the final decision process.

Isabelle: The criticism I heard in an area meeting was that we had this self-government meeting in the Bessborough and that grassroots people were not involved. With that, I guess we have to define what we mean by grassroots, I think we all feel like grassroots. I think this process of going back to the locals will change this attitude, and all people will be included. I think it is a good Plan.

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Gerald: I think the rationale for that meeting at the Bessborough was to involve our affiliates, the provincial Metis council, the Metis women, the senators; and the provincial conference was where we bring in the grassroots people - but they heard about it, so it was ok anyway; so we handled that very well.

Philip: I want to talk about the annual assembly too. Last year it cost us \$185,000. This year, as people are aware, we are not receiving the level of funding we got last year. (eg. the constitutional process where we were able to access funding). So at this time we are basically starting from zero; and I don't see how we are going to raise that kind of money for an annual assembly. So, we have to talk about how are we going to make it possible to raise even \$100,000 for the annual assembly. Also, we never even started organizing for the annual assembly; this should have been done already. So, we need to make some decisions in terms of the annual assembly and how do we make it possible.

Gerald: This is not going to be a normal annual assembly. The way I see it, 70%-80% of what we do at the annual assembly should revolve around this self-government. This is the theme and purpose of the conference. Now, if we are going to have a provincial conference, we have to set dates here today, and we have to do some organizing around that; we have to start to look at area workshops - and this is where the financial part comes in. So, we should start organizing and planning phase 1.

Philip: Guy and Bruce are here, and one of the things we can consider may be the LAMB board annual meeting coming up around that time. Now, is there a possibility for a combination of them both? Can each LAMB board afford \$15,000 in their budget to come to an annual meeting? - and of course we also have some in RAMB. Can we get some answers to that in a couple of weeks, so we can start planning.

Guy: That is a possibility. However, we just put in our budgets that tie us in for the entire year. Our total expenses for board meetings is \$11,000, and this is for the whole year, one meeting a month. We have the two covered for Saskatoon, but if we part with \$15,000 all in one lump sum, we cannot have many more meetings in our locals. Another real possibility is being part of this tripartite process. The tripartite is part of self-government; therefore the tripartite and restructuring go hand in hand.

Gerald: When you look at the tripartite agreement, the number 1 agenda item is the " Metis self-management structures " item, which is basically what we are discussing here. Now Philip, it would be nice if we could go to the province and say look, why don't you put \$100,000 into the tripartite for that agenda item. The Feds will be obligated to contribute another \$100,000. There is \$200,000 right there, and this will take care of phase 1.

Guy: Even if we use some of that SIMAS money. That SIMAS money is going to be lost to the native people anyway. As soon as you role that SIMAS money into your economic development plan of Saskatchewan, then your taking away that money from the Metis people. Any big company can get 1 Metis in their company; this is a very simple thing to do and that Metis can get access to that money; but this is not for the benefit of the Metis people, it is for the benefit for that company. To get some of this SIMAS money, we can approach Mr. Lingenfelter and say: look, we are in the process of self-government, you should fund a certain portion of it through the tripartite - this also applies for the Feds. Now, in the areas that have LAMB boards, they should be able to fund their own people to come to this conference - we know we can. Therefore, if the Metis society can get access to that kind of money, you can fund two more so that each area brings in their 8 members or something like that. So, the Metis society will be responsible for their 2 and the LAMBS are responsible for their 6.

Gerald: I wonder if we should write a letter on this as soon as possible. That is the number 1 agenda item on the tripartite: "Metis self management structures", which is what we are talking about here. Now, if we ask the province to throw in \$100,000 and the Feds will match this dollar for dollar; that is \$200,000. If we educated them a little in that letter about this 5 year time frame - phase 1; that \$200,000 will take care of phase 1. Maybe we should get a letter out to Mitchell. Another idea, as Guy mentioned, is that we can access money in that economic development fund to use for economic development purposes at our annual assembly this fall. A major part of this self-government is going to be exploring economic development for the Metis anyway.

Philip: That will be the number 1 plan , but we still need to scrape together all our little monies.

Gerald: And I think it is so important Philip because to me, I see this self-government initiative as our number 1 priority for the MSS right now.

PHILIP: The other thing I thought about, only for discussion purposes, is that GDI spends about \$100,000 annually for meetings. Is there a possibility to combine the 2 meetings. RAMB also has their meetings, SNACC has theirs and so do our other affiliates. So, there are regular board meetings, there are annual meetings, GDI has annual meetings, RAMB has annual meetings, the MSS has annual meetings. I think as our second option, we can say: our meeting is going to be in November and the people attend.

Gerald: We need to set dates too for the annual assembly, and send this out to our people and start making them aware. I make a motion that Ray Jones work with Philip on behalf of the restructuring committee to find ways in which we can properly fund phase 1 of this self-government process.

GUY: I second that. There is a lot of possibilities; you can even go to the NAMB and do an application as a project base, because a project is self-government, and for something as crucial as this.

Gerald: This is crucial. This is important.

Guy: I can't understand why GDI has to have a conference, why MSS has to have a conference, why the RAMB has to have a conference. Lets role every into one.

Gerald: Not only that, maybe we can have a 3 or 4 day meeting in the fall or something.

Guy: I think the affiliates, since we have so many, can have a show case, and we can charge them. If they do not want to be part of it , we force them. I mean with the amount of affiliates that we have, if we charge them \$1,000 or \$500 a table for the next 3 days of the conference, that is cheap. Furthermore, for every meeting that we have, the affiliates will be represented. It is only common sense if we are all working for self-government. For example, I just came out of a Beaver river meeting and they were going to leave out SNEDCO. They invited everybody else in the province. I spoke out and said look, SNEDCO is a crucial player in the Northwest, What is the mater with you guys? It is issues like this that we have to watch out for. If we put these things together correctly, there should not be a problem.

Gerald: Also, the timing of the annual assembly should meet our agenda as far as self-government is concerned. This is what will determine success. For example, if we have area workshops completed by the end of June, and have the provincial conference in July in Batoche. We should then be looking at the annual assembly at the end of September and not much longer or we risk loosing the momentum we have now. So, we need to fit the annual assembly into the phase 1 agenda.

Bruce: We should also talk about funds for the all presidents meeting, not just the annual assembly. As far as the tripartite is concerned, we should use some of those funds in that budget; it should be made part of this process. The annual meeting can accumulate the process.

Gerald: I think that is important because if we do not have that provincial meeting and go directly to the annual assembly, then we take the risk of the people saying you are moving to fast.

Delbert: I wouldn't want to piggy back a youth conference with some of the conferences we are talking about here; the youth will get lost in the issues. It will have to be separate. Maybe at the annual assembly we can have separate sessions for young people, like we had last october - but there was only 2 or 3 from each area that were allowed to go. I would like to see more. If the young people have their gas and meals payed, they will be fine.

Bruce: Getting back to the agenda, I think November makes more sense than September. Now on the area workshops, who is going to fund these?

Gerald: Yes, but first I want to say, Ray, we should utilize New Breed to the fullest to inform the people of what we are doing with this self-government.

Philip: I agree, also we should develop a 1st class pamphlet and mailing system to get the people thinking how we are going to implement self-government. This will send a message to our people and to the government.

Bruce: I agree.

Gerald: We even put a copy in New Breed.

Isabelle: If you use your mailing system, and send the president and area directors a fist full, it would reach more of our people.

Bruce: If our Metis leaders, and affiliates all had a briefcase full, and pass them out, it would filter down to the people.

Gerald: What is important is communication and education of our membership; and this is what will determine if our initiatives succeed this fall. Also, Isabelle, if GDI can get together a 30 page information package that summarizes some of the key themes and issues that were raised during the self-government. This will outline what we heard from the people.

Isabelle: We are working on that right now. We are starting to review the data. We are going to put this in a format that is available. Some more time needs to spent doing this.

Gerald: I make a motion that GDI be responsible for putting together an information package on the results of the self-government conference for distribution to the membership. The title of the package could be "What we Heard".

Guy : I second that.

Isabelle: GDI can also work on the pamphlet.

Gerald: I make another motion that the MSS restructuring committee put together a pamphlet for distribution to our membership.

Guy: I second that. Furthermore, the people of the north are not very educated people. I think we should contact Missinipi radio, and get the people who can speak good cree, like max Morin, and have dialogue to explain what we are doing. Also, a lot of people up north are on social assistance, and the basic thing they are afraid of is that they do not want to be governed by an organization that might withhold their cheques. We should also have a question and answer portion on the pamphlet.

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Gerald: Yes, and I think we should put it in laymen terms for the people.

Guy :We have to because their is where the direction is going to come from.

Gerald: I make a motion that we use the media such as New Breed and Missinipi broadcasting to get the word out top our people.

Bruce: I second that. Also, a monthly letter to the locals from the president and treasurer between now and the annual meeting.

Gerald: Communication summary: 1) Kit 2) pamphlet 3) Media 4) monthly letter; and Ray and GDI will follow up on these. Also, some of the leaders in the MSS loose the grassroots perspective. A lot of people say the MSS are a bunch of crooks, and this type of thinking has been in our communities for some time. I think we can restore confidence in our people by having a code of ethics and conflict of interest guide lines, and we can have this available in our kit.

Isabelle: This was raised at the conference, but it went further by saying we should put credibility into the organization by having credible people. Now, on the area workshops, I think a letter should go out to the regions asking them to invite us.

Gerald: So Ray, with the assistance of GDI, you can talk to the area directors for the dates of the area workshops; and at these workshops, we have to make sure that at least 2 people from the restructuring committee attend. Now Philip, are we going to have some money available for these area workshops?

Philip: If the locals and regions can contribute a little bit. Also, is it possible to have regional workshops using our LAMB structure and have 6, and not 12 workshops. This is a political issue; can we present this to area directors?

Guy : The MSS is known for its 12 areas. Pathways has 6 zones. If we operate under the pathways structure, we could get opposition from the other 6. Now, every LAMB has money for board meetings, so they can pay for their 12 people from the 2 areas.

Isabelle: They all are going to want weekends, and there are only 8 weekends left.

Philip: We can have 2 in one weekend.

Bruce: What if we have the dead line say July 15 and not June 30.

Isabelle: We need time for proper documentation of these workshops; and this could take about 2 weeks. we want to capture what people are saying in the communities.

Guy: We have to educate the people before the workshop, otherwise when we get into the workshop, we maybe discussing something else that maybe important, but it may not be the most crucial thing for self-government.

Gerald: The conference in July should be focus on a few concrete proposals.

Philip: For the area workshops, we should make a poster and we can fill in the dates on it.

Gerald: I make it a motion that we make a poster for the area workshops.

Delbert: I second that.

Isabelle: How are we going to involve the youth in these area workshops?

Delbert: My biggest problem is time and communication. Most of the youth committee are students that lack experience and time, except for me and Georgina who work for MACSI. There is a lack of communication in our organization and what we need are a few staff people to do some of the work.

Gerald: Why not Ray and GDI follow up on the youth aspect. You can feed them information on phone numbers, addresses etc.

John: What you can do is write a letter to the area director telling them to make the youth a part of there delegation.

Isabelle: GDI can promote the activity for their youth through the activities of their students.

Delbert: Also, if the area directors can inform the youth executive of their area board meetings.

Gerald: In the letter to the area director informing them of the area workshops, we can tell them to include youth reps, and we can provide a list of who these reps are in their regions. Now, back to the all presidents meeting, I make a motion that the meeting be held in Batoche.

Bruce: I second that.

Gerald: I also make a motion that the timing of the annual assembly be determined at Batoche.

Bruce: I second that. Also, where does the MNC agenda fit into this.

Gerald: Let the MNC take care of their own agenda. They have a constitutional commission in place. We have myself and senator Boucher from the MSS to inform them of what we are doing at the provincial level. There should also be some consistency between what we are doing here and at the national level.

Delbert: The youth have not been part of the process because of personal problems of our youth executive reps. We need help, otherwise this whole thing may crumble.

Guy: The problem with this whole youth organization is that they are trying to run an organization parallel to the MSS, which is an impossibility.

Gerald: What you have to do Delbert is communicate to your regional youth reps. Also, you should restructure your organization into 12 regions at the annual assembly, like the Metis women. This will coincide with the 12 MSS regions. These area youth reps will then be responsible for talking to their area director to involve the youth; the responsibility cannot rest solely on the youth executive.

John: You also have to define who the Youth are. When does a Metis youth begin and where does it stop?

Guy: Every parent across Canada is worried about 2 things: 1) alcoholism and drug abuse and 2) stay in school programs. If the Metis youth apply to these sources of funding, you can hold workshops in the 12 areas. You would then be more visible.

Bruce: How do we handle the issue of Metis membership. Do we handle here or at the board meeting?

Gerald: I do not think a politician should handle enumeration.

Isabelle: I think there should be a separate commission under MSS.

Gerald: What the restructuring committee should support is an independent commission that is responsible for membership and enumeration. This will give more credibility to the MSS. We could ask the province to put forth a credible name, we can ask the Feds to put forth credible name, the MSS will put forth a credible name, and this will be our 3 person commission. It will be up to our board to set this up.

Gerald: Motion to adjourn.

Bruce: Second.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

The minutes to the MSS restructuring committee meeting held December 02 1993 were as follows:

- in attendance were:

Gerald Morin	John Dorion	Bruce Flamont	Norman Hansen
Isabelle Impey	Noble Shanks	Guy Bouvier	Clem Chartier
Bill Wardell	Donna Van Young		

The approach of the meeting was to spend some time brainstorming to determine some of the following issues:

- 1) Mandate of the committee
- 2) What is Metis self-government?, and what is its relationship with respect to Simas, the provincial government and the pathways model.
- 3) What are the roles and responsibilities coming into play with respect to the regional, local, affiliate and membership levels.
- 4) The initial task will be to develop terms of reference by Isabelle Impey and Noble Shanks by January 1993.

There was consensus that many models were already in place, using the example of pathways. The tripartite group under Clem's direction could offer some assistance. John Dorion passed around an outline that shows that a considerable amount of thought has gone into the whole issue.

It was agreed that the restructuring committee should put together some rough models to take to the community for consultation and that this should be done by the end of winter so consultation could begin by the end of winter or early spring.

Gerald was concerned with the MSS relationship with the provincial government and the need to sort out how Metis self-government, and the restructuring that was needed within the MSS, would relate to the larger strategic plan to move self-governing structures along efficiently.

Gerald also pointed out the need to sort out the issue of core funding with the provincial government, and how this relationship with respect to funding self-governing structures as they developed.

Bill Wardell reported that he had spoken to Wes Robins, an influential provincial advisor, who would be available to meet with the committee how they might relate to the provincial government from a self-government perspective.

Isabelle noted the importance of processes within the Metis community to clearly set examples for the local communities by providing development models which combine issues of fairness and democratic principle with efficient , culturally appropriate models of Metis self-government.

The committee agreed to reconvene in January to begin to focus on some particular areas with respect to self-government and restructuring keeping in mind the tripartite agreement and political accord as well as Lingenfelter's white paper on economic development.

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The minutes to the MSS restructuring committee meeting held January 26 1993 were as follows:

- in attendance were:

Gerald Morin	Philip Chartier	Isabelle Impey
Clem Chartier	Norman Hansen	Ray Jones
Bruce Flamont	Guy Bouvier	

There was a consensus that the time frame for the restructuring of the MSS evolve over a 5 year period, which is also consistent with the tripartite time frame, and that there be a number of restructuring phases. The first step in phase 1 will be a self-government conference in March, followed by an all presidents meeting in June or July. The 1st phase will then be tabled at the annual assembly in the fall. There will be a global plan to restructure the MSS political body and affiliates in this first initial phase.

There was a consensus that the participant in this first phase include: 1) The MSS restructuring committee 2) The Provincial Metis council 3) The affiliate's chairperson 4) The Metis Women 5) The Elders senate 6) The Metis youth

There was a general discussion on what the Metis self-government structure might look like. There was reference to how pathways is modeled and how we can learn from this example. Philip noted that if there is to be a Metis legislative assembly, its role, and the people who serve in it, need to be defined. Gerald added that a ministerial portfolio is an option using the ballot box system. Bruce noted that there needs to be some consistency between the provincial and national level.

Clem presented a proposed structure for the MNC that was presented at the Vancouver MNC meeting. Norman suggested we should inform the MNC of the MSS restructuring progress as it develops. Philip added that we should have a game plan that includes the private sector so we may gain their support.

Clem made a short presentation on the tripartite agreement. He stated that the tripartite and the MSS go hand in hand in restructuring.

There was a consensus for the dates for the self-government conference. It was also agreed that the facilitators include: Sol Sanderson, Clem Chartier, Elsie Roberts, Marc Laclair, Ron Rivard and Bruce Flamont as a standby. It was agreed that GDI will be responsible for organizing it. Isabelle suggested that a letter go out to all affiliates requesting for a contribution.

Gerald mentioned that the restructuring terms of reference were academically complicated and need to be put into laymen terms. Isabelle responded by saying that a kit will be available to all people who attend the conference and that the subject matter will be outlined and defined in it.

There was consensus that the presidents will be invited to attend the conference, but it will have to be at their own expense. Philip added that we need an updated list of all active presidents from the area directors.

The Metis self-government conference was held on March 17, 18 and 19 1993 at the Bessborough hotel in Saskatoon.

The first two days of the conference had a main session followed by workshop sessions in the afternoon. The workshops were divided into 6 groups and the discussion in each focused on the subject material presented in the morning. The main points of the workshop discussion were presented to the main session to conclude the day. A summary was given on the last day of the conference and some members of the restructuring committee had an opportunity to respond to some of the concerns raised during the conference.

A large amount of information was gathered during the main and workshop sessions. It was gathered on video, audio and researcher written notes. The researcher notes were made available to Vickie McCaffry (director of DTI). She used them, along with her personal observations, to summarize the key points raised during the conference. The main points of her summary include:

- 1) The need for education: There needs to be more self-government sessions at the local level. There also needs to be a strategy to educate non-aboriginals on the Metis self-government issues.
- 2) The need for local input and direction into Metis self-government: There will be more power if you use a larger consultative process and the leadership will receive a stronger mandate from the people. This in turn will give the MSS negotiators a stronger bargaining position.
- 3) The relationship between the MSS leadership and the locals: There needs to be a balance between local input and direction with MSS leaders who are elected and mandated to carry out initiatives.
- 4) Communication: We need a system to inform the Metis nation on progress and issues associated with self-government initiatives.
- 5) Enumeration. We need to know who and how many we are. The key point here is the definition of Metis. We then need to get an accurate count of those identified as Metis. Again, this will be useful in negotiations, esp. regarding funding.
- 6) Define roles of the elders, the MSS executive, the Metis women, the Metis youth, the locals, the area directors. Also, define the roles and relationships with the non-aboriginal governments, the public service and other government institutions. There should be a movement away from the non-profit corp. act and towards a Metis Legislature with binding laws.