

Métis Nation of Saskatchewan's Legislative Assembly Minutes
Ramada Hotel, 1st Avenue and 22nd Street
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

November 14th, 1997

Call to Order: Meeting began at 1:00 p.m. with the Grand Entry consisting of Métis Veterans and the Provincial Métis Council, with the President and Métis Veterans carrying in the flags in tune with the National Anthem, with some children of the Lècole du Madeline Dumont singing along with the National Anthem.

Opening Prayer: Father Guy Lavallee said the opening prayer.

Opening Remarks: Jimmy Durocher, President welcomed the Elders, Senators, Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen to the meeting.
Introduced the first guest speaker;

Keith Goulet:

Minister of

Northern Affairs:

Stated that Saskatchewan takes the leadership role in Education in Canada, re: Métis education (GDI, DTI, SUNTEP, GDC). We need Métis unity, thanked leaders who took part in restoring Métis livelihood, fur trade.

Jimmy Durocher thanked and presented a Métis Veterans Book to Minister Goulet..

Buckley Belanger

MLA Liberal Party:

Mr. Belanger stated that he appreciated the invitation to speak at the MNLA. Métis people have made a lot of accomplishments to be proud of. Noted the challenges that Métis Nation has to face: Recognizing Nation exists, Aboriginal people with no recognition. Encourage people to continue to fight for their inherent rights.

Jim Durocher also thanked and presented a Métis Veterans Book to Mr. Belanger.

Rose Boyer

President

Métis Women

WR II:

Stated that everyone has a lot to offer and asked that deliberations be heartfelt and to put differences aside. We are here to represent our Métis children's future. Announce that the Métis Women in the

region were putting on the banquet tomorrow at the Friendship Centre.

Father Guy Lavallee

Book Launch: Thanked the Provincial Métis Council for allowing him to launch his Book. Asked Clem Chartier, Maria Campbell and Donna Heimbecker to come forward. Spoke on how the history of and how he came to publish the book. Thanked Clem and Donna for providing the pictures and Maria for writing the epilogue. The book is called "Prayers of a Métis priest".

Philip Chartier Local

#62: Asked for opportunity to recognize person who fights for rights of hunting and fishing for the Métis People and introduced Clem Chartier. Also wanted recognition for the staff of Gabriel Dumont Institute for the amount of work done in putting together the Métis Veterans Book.

Appointment of

Speaker: Nominations opened for speaker:
Shirley Ross Langham Local #159 nominates Murray Hamilton for Chairperson. Wayne Trotchie Local #165 nominates Dwayne Roth for co-chair.

Motion 1/11/97: MOVED BY: Brian Amiotte SECONDED BY: Philip Chartier

THAT NOMINATIONS CEASE.

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion: Robert Doucette asked that the issue of Plato/Berkeley, Scott and Kindersley be resolved and that the Local presidents that he named were recognized as the delegates.

Motion 2/11/97: MOVED BY: Robert Doucette SECONDED BY: Gary Martin

THAT THE AGENDA BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED WITH PLATO, BERKELEY, SCOTT, KINDERSLEY, ISSUE TO BE MOVED AFTER SENATE REPORT.

MOTION CARRIED:

Presidents Report: Jim Durocher gave report as in kit.

Treasurers Report: Allan Morin gave report as in kit.
Secretary's Report: Lorna Docken gave report as in kit.
Senate's Report: Nora Ritchie gave report as in Senate Kit.
Discussion: The local presidents issue returned to floor.

Motion 3/11/97: MOVED BY: Philip Chartier SECONDED BY: Gordon Morin

THAT WE RATIFY MOTION OF 1996 REGARDING WESTERN REGION 2A LOCAL PRESIDENTS.

MOTION DEFEATED.

Motion 4/11/97: MOVED BY: Maurice Aubichon SECONDED BY: Randy Gaudry

THAT WESTERN REGION 2A MEET IN SEPARATE MEETING ROOM TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM, THEY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE MNLA UNTIL LOCAL PRESIDENT PROBLEM IS RESOLVED. SENATE WILL APPOINT ONE OF THE SENATORS TO CHAIR THIS MEETING.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion 5/11/97: MOVED BY: Maurice Aubichon SECONDED BY: Leebert Poitras

THAT ALL THREE EXECUTIVE REPORTS BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion 6/11/97: MOVED BY: Lorna Docken SECONDED BY: Gordon Morin

THAT THE SENATE REPORT BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion 7/11/97: MOVED BY: Philip Chartier SECONDED BY: Jim Durocher

THAT THE MÉTIS RECOGNITION ACT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS: 1. HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS. 2. LAND BASE FOR MÉTIS. 3. SELF GOVERNMENT FOR MÉTIS.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion 8/11/97: MOVED BY: Philip Chartier SECONDED BY: Ralph Kennedy

THAT DARREL MORIN RECEIVE ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1000.00) TO ASSIST HIM IN TRAVELING TO OTTAWA TO RECEIVE AN AWARD FROM THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF CANADA.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion 9/11/97: MOVED BY: Philip Chartier SECONDED BY: Robert Doucette

THAT AN ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY BE CONVENED ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 13, 1997 AT 1:00 P.M. IN SASKATOON. PROVINCIAL MÉTIS COUNCIL TO PAY FOR THE MEETING ROOM AND ALL DELEGATE EXPENSES ARE OUT OF POCKET.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion 10/11/97: MOVED BY: Philip Chartier

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:52 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED.

**Constitutional Amendments:
To be ratified at an Annual General Assembly.**

Addition to Preamble:

We the citizens of the Métis Nation recognize:

∞ The Inherent dignity to equality and rights which can never be taken away from Métis people is the foundation of Freedom, Justice, and Peace in the Métis Nation.

∞ The ideal of all Métis enjoying civil and political freedom can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby every Métis may enjoy their civil, political rights, economic, social and cultural rights.

∞ The promotion of Universal respect for and observance of the collective and individual rights and freedoms of all Métis.

∞ Realize that the Métis individual, having duties to other Métis individuals and to the Métis community to which they are a part of, is under a responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of all Métis rights.

Therefore we the citizens of the Métis Nation agree to the following articles:

1. All Métis have the rights to self-determination. By virtue of that right we the citizens of the Métis Nation will freely determine our political status and freely pursue our economic, social and cultural development;
2. The Métis Nation undertakes to respect and ensure to all individuals within the nation and subject to its jurisdiction the rights without distinction of any kind such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions;
3. To ensure that any Métis person whose rights or freedoms as herein recognized are violated shall have an effective remedy;
4. To ensure that any person claiming such a remedy shall have their right thereto determined by competent Judicial, administrative or legislative authorities of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan;
5. To ensure competent authorities as enacted by the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan shall enforce such remedies when granted;
6. The Métis Nation undertakes to ensure the equal right of men and women to enjoy

all civil and political rights set forth in these articles;

7. Every Métis citizen shall have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose their residence;
8. No Métis citizen in the Métis Nation shall be deprived of the right to join a local in the community they reside;
9. All persons shall be equal before the Métis Legislative Assembly in the termination of any issue which they are charged with. Every Métis Person shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by the Métis Legislative Assembly;
10. No Métis Person shall be subject to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on their honor or reputation;
11. Every Métis Person shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;
12. No Métis Person shall be subject to coercion that would impair their freedom to have or adopt a belief of their choice;
13. The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan shall have respect for the liberty of parents or guardians to ensure the moral education of their children is in conformity with their own convictions;
14. Every Métis Person has the right to hold opinions without interference;
15. Every Métis Person shall have the right to expression. This right shall include the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds either in writing or print, in the form of art, or through any media of their choice;
16. The right of Métis People to assemble and organize at the community level shall be recognized;
17. Every Métis Person shall have the right of association.
 - a) No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those prescribed by the Métis Legislative Assembly which are necessary to protect the interests of the Métis Nation.
18. The family is the natural and fundamental group of the Métis Nation and is entitled to protection by the Métis Nation;

19. Every Métis child born of a Métis man or woman is a citizen of the Métis Nation and shall be registered immediately.

20. Every Métis Person has the right to:
 - a) Take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

 - b) To vote and to be elected to the Local, Assembly of Representatives or the Métis Legislative Assembly.

 - c) All votes shall be of equal and universal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot which guarantee's the free expression of the will of the elector's.

 - d) All Métis shall have the right to access all public services offered through the Métis Nation affiliates.

21. All Métis Persons are equal and entitled to protection by the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.

MOVED BY: Robert Doucette SECONDED BY: Garnet Parenteau

MOTION CARRIED.

article of rule 2
12
96
Lorna Kennedy
By election
May 28/97

Article 10 Membership:

Whereas

The Métis Nation knows no provincial boundaries; and

The current Métis Nation of Saskatchewan membership criteria is inconsistent with other provincial Métis membership policies; and,

The Métis National Council (MNC) and other provincial Métis Nation affiliates have a consistent Métis definition.

Therefore let it be resolved that

The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly adopt the following Métis definition which is consistent with the MNC and MMF definitions by amending Article 10: MEMBERSHIP of the MNS Constitution Act to read as follows:

Article 10: CITIZENSHIP

1. 'Métis' means an Aboriginal person who self-identifies as Métis, who is distinct from Indian and Inuit, and:
 - (i) is a descendant of those Métis who received or were entitled to receive land grants and/or Scrip under the provision of the *Manitoba Act, 1870* or the *Dominion Lands Act*, as enacted from time to time; or
 - (ii) a person of Aboriginal descent who is accepted by the Métis Nation and/or Métis community.

MOVED BY: Lorna Docken SECONDED BY: Ralph Kennedy

MOTION CARRIED.

Article 4 Executive

Whereas

Members of Local 126 propose a change to the Executive Council, Article 4 of the MNS Constitution Act to include the right to elect a Vice President within the Executive Council; and,

As a growing organization there is too much responsibility put on the president; and,

It is time for change, and the beginning of a better and more efficient Executive Council which is answerable to the Métis of Saskatchewan.

Therefore let it be resolved that

The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly amend Article 4: EXECUTIVE of the MNS Constitution Act to read as follows:

1. There shall be Four (4) Executive members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly who are elected province-wide.
2. The Executive shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

MOVED BY: Gillis Lavalley SECONDED BY: Les Nene

MOTION CARRIED.

Article 14 Affiliates

Whereas

The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly is the governing body of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan; and,

The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, on behalf of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, shall exercise all powers of ownership in relation to the affiliates.

Therefore let it be resolved that:

The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly amend Article 14: AFFILIATES of the MNS Constitution Act to read as follows:

3. All affiliates shall have representation from the twelve (12) regions of the

organization.

MOVED BY: Ralph Kennedy SECONDED BY: Brian Amiotte

MOTION CARRIED.

Article 11 General Assembly

Whereas

The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly is the governing body of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.

Therefore let it be resolved that

The MNS General Assembly be an information sharing forum only and that constitutional amendments need not be brought before the General Assembly; and,

The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly amend Article 11: GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the MNS Constitution Act to read as follows:

2. The General Assembly shall provide Forum whereby the members of the Organization will receive information, review developments and provide guidance to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.

MOVED BY: Philip Chartier SECONDED BY: Gillis Lavalley

MOTION CARRIED.

Article 7 Locals

Subsection #3

New locals can be admitted by the Regional Council provided this decision is ratified by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and the requirements herein are met.

Proposed Change: Boundary Change

Métis Nation Locals #5, Green Lake and #67, Sled Lake/Dore Lake of Western Region #1 amalgamate with Northwest Region #3.

THAT THE MÉTIS NATION OF SASKATCHEWAN LOCALS #5, GREEN LAKE AND #67, SLED LAKE/DORE LAKE OF WESTERN REGION #1, AMALGAMATE WITH NORTHWEST REGION #3.

MOVED BY: Francis Laliberte SECONDED BY: Leon Kennedy

MOTION CARRIED.

Eastern Region III

THAT ITUNA BE ACCEPTED AS A LOCAL OF EASTERN REGION III

MOVED BY: Leebert Poitras SECONDED BY: Bev McKinnon

MOTION CARRIED


Western Region IIA

THAT THE MÉTIS NATION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACCEPT OUR DECISION TO AMEND SCHEDULE A AND ADD "SASKATOON LOCAL IIA" TO THE LOCALS OF WESTERN REGION IIA.

MOVED BY: Robert Doucette SECONDED BY: Garnet Parenteau

MOTION CARRIED.

Article 6.1 North West Saskatchewan Métis Council

 **THAT THE MÉTIS NATION OF SASKATCHEWAN SHALL ASSIST, SUPPORT, RECOMMEND AND FACILITATE THE REGIONS FORMING THE NORTH WEST SASKATCHEWAN MÉTIS COUNCIL TO DEVELOP, ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT MÉTIS GOVERNANCE FOR THEIR MÉTIS COMMUNITIES.**

MOVED BY: Philip Chartier SECONDED BY: Gordon Morin

MOTION CARRIED.

Article 8 Elections

Whereas

The current Métis Nation of Saskatchewan election articles need more detail and substance; and,

The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan's elections need to be democratic, open and transparent,

Therefore let it be resolved that

The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly amend Article 8: ELECTIONS of the MNS Constitution Act to read as follows:

2. Election for the Provincial Métis Council of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall be held on the date set by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly. Failure to comply shall be considered insubordination and shall result in the removal of the Provincial Métis Council from office on the day immediately following the election date.
 - a) At the call of a Provincial Métis Council Election, eligible voters must be card carrying members of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, in good standing, from a recognized local of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan; and,
 - b) Once there has been a call for a Provincial Métis Council Election, members' names must appear on the Regional Voter's List, which must be advanced to the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Head Office forty-five days prior to the election date by each Region; and,

- c) A Provincial Voters' List will be provided to each Region thirty (30) days prior to the election date.
- 7. d) When the election or by-election date has been set and the election called by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, the Commission shall have sole authority and responsibility to conduct the elections and shall be independent and answerable only to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.

MOVED BY: Gillis Lavalley SECONDED BY: Maurice Aubichon

MOTION CARRIED.