

**PICHÉ
HUMPHRIES**

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January 3, 1997

Metis Nation of Saskatchewan
219 Robin Cres.
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Via Facsimile
(306) 343-0171

ATTENTION: Executive
Provincial Metis Council

Dear Sirs:

Re: Joint PMC/Senate Meeting - January 5, 1997
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Please be advised that the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Senate conducted a conference call meeting on January 2, 1997 to discuss the proposed joint PMC/Senate meeting slated for January 5, 1997. Present were:

Senator Nora Ritchie, Chairperson
Senator Vital Morin
Senator Edward King
Senator Maria Chaboyer
Senator Lawrence Martell
Senator Rose LeDoux
Senator Joe Fayant
Senator John Woodward
Senator Alfred Genaille
Senator Stan Durocher
Earl Pelletier, Chief Electoral Officer
Dwayne Roth, Metis Lawyer

The Senate was advised that:

1. Elections for the Provincial Metis Council (PMC) shall be held at least every three years on a date set by the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) based upon the recommendation of the PMC.
2. The MNLA set the election date as "mid-October, 1997", while the PMC called for a February, 1998 election. The Senate assumed that the PMC is now thinking of recommending a later date.
3. The three year mandate of the PMC and the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS) Executive expires February, 1998.

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4. On October 10, 1996 the MNLA appointed the following Senators to the Metis Elections Commission, pursuant to Article 8, Section 7(c) of the MNS Constitution, based upon the recommendations of the Senate, for a term of not more than three years:
 - The Senate Chairperson
 - The Western Region II Senator
 - A Provincial Member of Choice
5. At the June, 1997 sitting of the MNS General Assembly the Senate confirmed that the Metis Elections Commission consists of:
 - Senator Nora Ritchie, Senate Chairperson
 - Senator John Boucher, Western Region II Senator
 - Senator Rose LeDoux, Provincial Member of Choice
6. The Metis Elections Commission is empowered to oversee and conduct the general elections and by-elections of the MNS Pursuant to Article 8, Section 7(a) of the Constitution.
7. The Metis Elections Commission decided that since the PMC and the MNLA have been unable to agree upon an election date, and since the three year mandate of the PMC and MNS executive will soon expire, the election will be held on February 21, 1998.
8. The Metis Elections Commission discussed this with the Treasurer of the MNS and was told that finances are available for a February election.
9. The Commission appointed Mr. Earl Pelletier as the Chief Electoral Officer pursuant to Article 8, Section 7(e) of the MNS Constitution.
10. The Chief Electoral Officer sent notification of the election to the Local Presidents and PMC members on December 22, 1997. He also sent directions pursuant to the Election Regulations and he sent nomination forms.
11. Advertisements have also been directed and notification of the February 21, 1998 election date has been aired on Missinippi Radio and printed in the Prince Albert newspaper.

Based upon all of the above information the Senate decided that it will not meet with the PMC until after the election. During this politically charged period of time the Senate will let the election run its course without any political interference. The Metis Elections Commission will oversee the election in a fair,

unbiased manner also free from political interference. Therefore, the Senate passed the following resolutions:

1. **THAT the Senate confirms that the appointments to the Metis Election Commission has already taken place, and that Nora Ritchie, John Boucher and Rose LeDoux are the members of the Senate making up the Metis Elections Commission.**

**MOVED BY: Senator Stan Durocher
SECONDED BY: Senator Alfred Genaille**

2. **THAT the Senate agrees with the work of the Metis Elections Commission to date, including the letter sent out in December 1997 announcing the MNS General Election for February 21, 1998 and the close of nominations for 5 p.m., January 21, 1998.**

**MOVED BY: Senator Joe Fayant
SECONDED BY: Senator Stan Durocher**

3. **THAT the Senate will not be meeting with the PMC on January 5, 1998 or any date after that to discuss the MNS General Election, as the Metis Elections Commission has sole authority under Article 8, Section 7, of the MNS Constitution to deal with all matters relating to the Election slated for February 21, 1998.**

**MOVED BY: Senator Vital Morin
SECONDED BY: Senator Rose LeDoux**

4. **THAT the Treasurer of the MNS is directed to provide the Metis Elections Commission with its required finances immediately.**

**MOVED BY: Senator Lawrence Martell
SECONDED BY: Senator Vital Morin**

The Senate also told the Metis Elections Commission to meet any attempts by the PMC to stall the election with legal action. It should be noted that this law firm will not represent the Metis Elections Commission nor the PMC should such escalate to legal action.

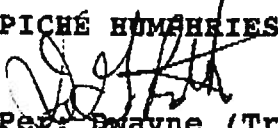
It would be prudent to forward nominations by January 21, 1998, pursuant to the instructions of the Chief Electoral Officer. The Senate also expects Candidates to tender an application for leave of absence.

When nominations close and until candidates are officially elected the Senate will conduct the affairs of the MNS pursuant to Article 8, Section 10 of the MNS Constitution. The Senate has appointed Wilf Blondeau, MNS Executive Director, and Senator Ed King, with Senator John Boucher as an alternative, as having signing authority for the MNS during this time period.

I trust this is satisfactory. Should you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to call. I thank you for this opportunity to assist the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan.

Yours Truly,

PICHE HUMPHRIES


Per: Dwayne (Trudeau) G. Roth
Barrister and Solicitor

cc. MNS Senate