

## MEETING MINUTES

|                             |                            |                  |                 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Meeting:</b>             | BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING |                  |                 |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>     | November 12, 2024          | <b>Time:</b>     | 9:00 AM         |
| <b>Minutes Prepared By:</b> | Rachel Ouellette           | <b>Location:</b> | Microsoft Teams |

## ATTENDEES

### Participating Board of Directors:

President Walter Mineault  
 Vice-President Melanie Allard  
 Minister Allan Lavallee  
 Minister Carmen Carriere  
 Minister Danielle Bergevin  
 Minister Dean Gladue  
 Minister Debra Fisher  
 Minister Patrick Harriott  
 Minister Paulette Flamond  
 Minister Raynie Gervais  
 Minister Susie Hooper

### Participating Staff:

Colette Trudeau, Chief Executive Officer  
 John Bieker, Chief Governance Officer  
 Peter Csicsai, Chief Relations Officer  
 Colleen Hodgson, Executive Director, Citizenship and Children and Families  
 Sharlene Wedel, Executive Director, Ministry of Education - Early Learning | K-12  
 Diane VanBroeck, Director of Financial Reporting and Budgeting  
 Marc Riddell, Director of Communications  
 Melanie Walker, Director of Métis Rights, Negotiations and Justice  
 Kamron Bajwa, Director of Government Relations  
 Carly Teillet, Senior Manager of Justice  
 Barinder Lalli, Board Operations Manager  
 Rachel Ouellette, Board Secretariat Coordinator

*Note: The agenda was varied by unanimous consent throughout the meeting. The minutes are recorded in the order listed on the agenda. Items added to the agenda at the meeting are at the end of these minutes.*

## 1. Welcome

President Mineault called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM and welcomed everyone. Minister Gervais provided an opening prayer.

### 1.1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

President Mineault acknowledged the Kelly Lake Métis Society and the traditional territory of the Dunneza of which he was calling from.

Vice-President Allard acknowledged the Two Rivers Métis Society and the traditional territory of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc of which she was calling from.

Region 1 - Minister Harriott acknowledged the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria and traditional territory of the Tsartlip and WSÁNEĆ peoples of which he was calling from.

Region 2 - Minister Lavallee acknowledged the Waceyá Métis Society and traditional and unceded territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie and Semiahmoo First Nations People of which he was calling from.

Region 3 – Minister Gladue the Two Rivers Métis Society and the traditional territory of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc of which he was calling from.

Region 4 - Minister Fisher acknowledged the Columbia Valley Métis Association and traditional shared territory of the Ktunaxa and Secwepemc Nations of which she was calling from.

Region 5 - Minister Gervais acknowledged the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh which he was calling from.

Region 6 - Minister Hooper acknowledged the traditional territory of the Gitidmt'en and home of the Tri River Métis Community of she was calling from.

Region 7 - Minister Flamond acknowledged the traditional territory of the Cahuilla People in Desert Springs California which she was calling from.

BC Women Chair – Minister Carriere acknowledged the Vancouver Sea to Sky Métis Association and the traditional territory of the Tsawwassen and Musqueam First Nations from where she was calling from.

BC Youth Chair - Minister Bergevin acknowledged the North Fraser Métis Association and the traditional territorial land of Kwikwetlem First Nation of which she was calling from.

Staff at HQ - Our work takes place on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt and Tsawwassen First Nations. We respectfully acknowledge their stewardship of this land since time immemorial. MNBC recognizes the 39 Métis Chartered Communities we serve across British Columbia.

## 1.2. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

**MOTION:**

**MOVED:** Minister Harriott

**SECONDED:** Minister Gervais

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the agenda of the November 12, 2024, Board of Directors meeting be approved with the addition of the Federal Justice Strategy.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 1.3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:**

**MOVED:** Minister Harriott

**SECONDED:** Minister Hooper

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the minutes of the October 15, 2024 Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 2. Update on Action Items

The Board reviewed the Action Item List, updates were noted as follows:

- **20240212-01/20240422-01 Gender Diversity Training** – Five Board members are currently needing to complete the course. A reminder will be sent to those who have not completed their training. (In-Progress);

- **20240422-02 Senate Annual Report to Board of Directors** - The Chief Governance Officer is working with the Senate and the Senate Liaison to establish a regular procedure for obtaining these updates over the next couple of months. (In-Progress);
- **20240523-01 16-Acre Will of Land to MNBC** – Minister Fisher looking to schedule a time to meet with Citizens in the Spring of 2025 to view the property. (In-Progress);
- **20241015-01 Media Statement/News Releases** - Chief Governance Office set up a communications channel for the Board. (Complete).

### 3. President Update

Recent updates include the closure of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) lawsuit, which has been resolved. Additionally, ongoing conversations are taking place with various governing bodies, as well as with Provincial and Federal Governments. The Indigenous Remembrance Day Celebration was highlighted as a success, with strong speakers contributing to the event. Further efforts are also underway to strengthen relationships with First Nations Chiefs.

### 4. Chief Governance Officer Update

It was discussed that the Board Retreat will take place next week, from November 19-22. Hotel confirmations have been sent out, along with the retreat agenda. Requests were made to amend the agenda to allow time for discussions on communications related to conversations with Provincial and Federal Governments, as well as time to identify the Top 4 Priorities. These updates will be reflected on the third day, with the Board Media Training being rescheduled to a later time. Additionally, Mandate Letters will be addressed in the early Spring of 2025.

Additionally, it was shared that the Chief Governance Officer recently attended the Excellence in Governance Awards in Toronto, where they were honored with the 2024 Governance Professional of the Year Award.

### 5. New Citizenship Card (APPROVAL)

*Colleen Hodgson, Executive Director, Citizenship and Children and Families joined the meeting at 9:52 AM.*

The Executive Director of Citizenship and Children and Families provided an update on the new proposed Citizenship Card design, highlighting key features such as the inclusion of the Infinity symbol and the BC flower (Pacific dogwood). The Infinity symbol represents British Columbia as a Nation and serves a functional purpose. On the back of the card, a hologram of the flower will enhance security, similar to the security features found on a driver's license. Additionally, the card will feature a QR code linking to the Hub for managing citizenship.

For youth under the age of 16, a photo is not required on the card, and guardians will be able to manage their children's profiles. Once a youth reaches 16, a photo ID will be issued, and a renewal process—similar to that for driver's licenses—will be implemented, with reminders sent when the card is due for renewal. It was also noted that the design could evolve over time, with possible variations such as a veteran's logo for registered veterans. There was discussion regarding the choice of beadwork over embroidery in the card design. Beadwork was selected due to its cost-effectiveness in graphic design. Regarding the artwork, it was shared that a letter explaining the meaning behind the design would accompany the card upon its launch. Additionally, communications teams are working on an animation to support the messaging.

A question was raised about progress in establishing partnerships with ICBC and Canada Post for address changes. It was clarified that the priority is to first roll out the new card system before engaging with these service providers.

The proposal to link the Hub to the card and include messaging about respectful interactions was well-received. It was noted that delays in card renewal typically occur when details such as photos or addresses are not updated, with multiple reminders sent before renewal is completed, which can slow down the process.

**MOTION:**

**MOVED:** Minister Hooper

**SECONDED:** Minister Gervais

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approve the new updated Citizenship card.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Colleen Hodgson, Executive Director, Citizenship and Children and Families left the meeting at 10:24 AM.*

**6. Mission Child Card Build – Landscaping Proposal (APPROVAL)**

*Sharlene Wedel, Executive Director, Ministry of Education - Early Learning | K-12 joined the meeting at 10:24 AM.*

The Mission Childcare project is in its final stages, with landscaping work remaining to complete the outdoor play area necessary for licensing. Originally approved a year ago with a budget of \$75,000, additional costs were incurred to meet the licensing requirements for the fenced play space. While there are no projected images available, it was noted that the landscapers, who have previously worked on similar projects, are known for their quality work.

Three trees on the site are being preserved, and care will be taken to manage falling pinecones from trees. The landscaper plans to work around these trees and create a dedicated outdoor circle for children. Large planter boxes will also be included for planting activities in collaboration with the Chartered Communities.

**MOTION:**

**MOVED:** Minister Fisher

**SECONDED:** Minister Lavallee

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approve Back40 Landscaping to complete landscaping and outdoor play space for the Mission Child Care project, for the amount of \$202,760.17.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Sharlene Wedel, Executive Director, Ministry of Education - Early Learning | K-12 left the meeting at 10:32 AM.*

**7. Break**

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**Recessed for break at 10:41 AM – reconvened at 10:56 AM**

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## 8. Quarterly Financial Update (INFORMATION)

*Minister Gervais left the meeting at 10:56 AM. Diane VanBroeck, Director of Financial Reporting and Budgeting joined the meeting at 10:56 AM.*

The Director of Financial Reporting and Budgeting presented the Quarterly Financial Update to the Board of Directors, highlighting the financial statements as of September 30, 2024. The presentation included a review of funding commitments, received funds, and the top seven expenditures by ministries for the period from April to September 2024. These expenditures covered various categories, including subsidiaries, supports and programs, capacity and overhead, infrastructure and capital acquisitions, travel and meetings, community funding, service provider funding, and professional fees and honoraria.

There was discussion about the sustainability of funding for support and programs, with a suggestion to explore ways to make these funds more sustainable. The breakdown of expenditures for Justice and Rights was also reviewed. A request was made for a detailed breakdown of these funds regarding MWBC and MYBC, which will be provided for review, along with the agreements in place for funding for these Councils.

The review also included an analysis of expenditures by vendors and accounts payable statistics, highlighting an increase in invoices compared to previous years. A statement of expenditures was also reviewed. It was suggested that future presentations include information on the expiry dates of funding agreements, and that these discussions be incorporated into upcoming meetings. To ensure clarity around deliverables and deadlines, a snapshot of all agreements and their expiry dates will be created for review.

*Diane VanBroeck, Director of Financial Reporting and Budgeting left the meeting at 11:36 AM.*

## 9. Rights Assertion Strategy (APPROVAL)

*Peter Csicsai, Chief Relations Officer, Melanie Walker, Director of Métis Rights, Negotiations and Justice and Kamron Bajwa, Director of Government Relations joined the meeting at 11:39 AM. Minister Gervais re-joined the meeting at 12:20 PM.*

An overview of the Rights Strategy framework was presented, highlighting the background work and the team involved in its development. Short-term and medium-to-long-term objectives were discussed, with a focus on advancing MNBC's position in both Provincial and Federal government negotiations. Efforts are underway to ensure MNBC is included in key governmental discussions, with ongoing collaboration between MNBC's Government Relations team, Ministers, and the President to solidify the political stance.

It was emphasized that work will first be done at the technical level, and once a solid foundation is established, the political discussions will be elevated. There was agreement that the MNBC team should lead the effort in setting the stage for a new relationship with the government, with the Board becoming involved once those relationships are solidified. There was also a commitment to ensure that Métis Law leads these efforts.

The short-term focus includes areas such as self-government, covering the social, justice, and economic sectors, while long-term objectives and timelines were also reviewed. A suggestion was made that support from the Provincial Premier could lend more weight to MNBC's position with Federal Social Sector Ministries.

The discussion also touched on the work being done with MWBC and gender equity, with ongoing collaboration with Métis Women British Columbia (MWBC) and the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity (MOWGE), as well

as consultations with Councils and Chartered Communities. Once the Rights Strategy is approved, action items will be outlined to bring Chartered Communities and Councils into these conversations.

The Board requested a copy of the Social and Economic paper for review, which will be distributed to members.

**MOTION:**

**MOVED:** Minister Harriott

**SECONDED:** Minister Gladue

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approves the Rights Assertion Strategy as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Peter Csicsai, Chief Relations Officer, Melanie Walker, Director of Métis Rights, Negotiations and Justice and Kamron Bajwa, Director of Government Relations left the meeting at 12:32 PM.*

10. Lunch Break

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**Recessed for lunch break at 12:32 PM – reconvened at 1:32 PM**

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11. Resourcing and Structural Organization for MWBC (INFORMATION)

Discussion ensued regarding the organizational and resourcing structure within MNBC for the Métis Women British Columbia Council (MWBC). It was noted that there has been a lack of ongoing tracking of action items in recent years, and no clear organizational framework exists to define how MWBC and the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity (MOWGE) collaborate. There is a need to establish a system for tracking plans and elevating the strategic plan to ensure it is effectively executed. Additionally, the MNBC website currently only highlights MOWGE, with no distinction made for MWBC, which has led to further uncertainty.

The discussion emphasized the need for clearer definition of the roles and responsibilities of MWBC and MOWGE, as well as the resources allocated to MWBC to help achieve its strategic goals. Suggestions were made for MWBC leadership to meet with MNBC senior staff to discuss current funding, ongoing negotiations, and resource allocation for women's initiatives within the Nation. It was also proposed that MWBC's needs be considered in the next budget cycle, with the possibility of securing interim funding to better assist the Council.

It was highlighted that without adequate resourcing and a clearer governance structure, MWBC may struggle to fulfill its strategic objectives. In support of MWBC and the Métis Youth British Columbia Council (MYBC), a commitment was made to review both governance structures and staff participation to ensure the necessary resources are provided. The Youth Council was also noted to be in a similar situation, seeking similar clarity and support regarding structure and resourcing.

**ACTION ITEM (20241112-01):** Explore the creation of a task force within the Board to assess and address resourcing for MWBC and MYBC.

## 12. Spring Board Calendar (APPROVAL)

An overview of the proposed Board of Directors meeting dates and locations for January to June 2025 was presented. The discussion highlighted the location for the March in-person meeting, which will be held in Region 4 at Copper Point Resort, with the AGM planned for Region 6. It was also suggested that Kelly Lake would be an ideal location for a summer visit. The proposed Committee Schedule was reviewed, and it was noted that special Board meetings could still be scheduled as needed to address urgent matters.

Additionally, it was noted that Executive Committee meetings will need to be held weekly due to ongoing pressing issues. These meetings will be scheduled weekly through June 2025.

**MOTION:**

**MOVED:** Vice-President Allard

**SECONDED:** Minister Lavallee

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors agrees to the following meeting schedule and venues:

- January 21-22 – in person
- February 24 – virtual
- March 25-26 – in person
- April 28 – virtual
- May 28-29 – in person
- June 24 – virtual

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 13. MNGA Resolutions (INFORMATION)

An overview of the proposed resolutions for the upcoming Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA) was presented. Discussion focused on several questions regarding Resolution 4, which were clarified. The remaining resolutions were also reviewed, with no further issues raised.

*Vice-President Allard left the meeting at 3:07 PM to travel to Kelowna, BC.*

## 14. Break

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**Recessed for break at 3:07 PM – reconvened at 3:13 PM**

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## 15. Federal Justice Strategy (INFORMATION)

*Peter Csicsai, Chief Relations Officer, Carly Teillet, Senior Manager of Justice, and Kamron Bajwa, Director of Government Relations joined the meeting at 3:12 PM*

An update was provided on the ongoing negotiations regarding the Federal Justice Strategy, outlining the background and timelines. The process has faced challenges, with Canada setting deadlines without responding and unilaterally redrafting sections of the report. The initial document focused solely on First Nations, neglecting Métis issues, and the process has not been co-developed as originally intended. Over the past few weeks, efforts have been made to maintain key priorities and secure Métis representation within the strategy, including a specific Métis chapter that references the Métis National Council (MNC) and its governing members, as well as

separate sections for Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and Métis Nation Saskatchewan (MN-S). Unfortunately, Canada has weakened its commitment to Métis priorities.

The latest draft of the Strategy was submitted to Canada today for approval, with a decision expected from the Minister of Justice and Senior Leadership by the end of the week.

Clauses for lateral and bilateral tables have been included in the Strategy, and there is preparation to move forward regardless of MNC's involvement, with ongoing collaboration with Canada. Efforts have been made to address concerns with language, ensuring that Canada is informed about the different Métis relations across the country. Protective language has been included in the Justice Strategy.

*Peter Csicsai, Chief Relations Officer, Carly Teillet, Senior Manager of Justice, and Kamron Bajwa, Director of Government Relations left at 3:43 PM*

## 16. Ministry of Housing Dashboards and Overview Presentation (INFORMATION)

The following Ministry of Housing items were circulated to the Board of Directors for information:

- Housing Development – Project Dashboards
- Housing Supports – Project Dashboards
- Ministry of Housing BOD Overview Presentation

## 17. Committee Meeting Minutes (INFORMATION)

The following Committee Minutes were circulated to the Board of Directors for information:

- 2024-10-03 SIDC Minutes – APPROVED

## 18. Record of Decisions

A Record of Decisions for the Board of Directors meeting was distributed to the Board for their information.

## 19. Meeting Moves In-Camera

**MOTION:**

**MOVED:** Minister Gladue

**SECONDED:** Minister Gervais

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the meeting move in-camera.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting moved in-camera at 3:44 PM.

The meeting moved out of in-camera at 5:58 PM.



20. Adjournment

**MOTION:**

**MOVED:** Minister Lavallee

**SECONDED:** Minister Bergevin

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the meeting adjourn.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

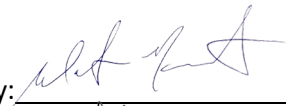
The meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM.

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**Approval Sheet**

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Approved by:  President

Approved by:  Secretary

Date: December 9, 2024

APPROVED