

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting:	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING		
Date of Meeting:	February 24, 2025	Time:	8:30 AM
Minutes Prepared By:	Rachel Ouellette	Location:	Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Participating Board of Directors:

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

Participating Staff:

Colette Trudeau, Chief Executive Officer
 Sasha Hobbs, Chief Strategy Officer
 Rachel Perkins, Director, Ministry of Women and Gender Equity
 Lisa Fox, Senior Manager of Women and Gender Equity
 Sharlene Wedel, Executive Director, Ministry of Education, Early Learning and K-12
 Madeline Green, Director, Education
 Natasha Dempsey-Ceron, Senior Manager, Child Care Space Planning & Development
 Marc Riddell, Director of Communications
 Mariel Hong, Events Manager
 Tanya Davoren, Executive Director of Health and Wellness
 Colleen Hodgson, Executive Director, Citizenship and Children and Families
 Alex Jacquard, Citizenship Quality Assurance Manager
 Chris Tupy, Executive Director of Housing Strategy and Operational Integration
 Dillon McLellan, Senior Manager, Housing and Homelessness Support Programs
 Crystal Egli, Administrative Coordinator
 Kayla Brow, Manager of Executive Operations
 Nicole Ludwig, Governance Manager
 Barinder Lalli, Board Operations Manager
 Rachel Ouellette, Board Secretariat Coordinator

Regrets:

Minister Dean Gladue

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 8:35 AM and welcomed everyone. Minister De Jaeger provided an opening prayer.

1.1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

President Mineault acknowledged the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria and traditional territory of the Tsartlip and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples of which he was calling from.

Vice President Allard acknowledged the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria and traditional territory of the Tsartlip and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples of which she was calling from.

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

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

Region 4 - Minister Fisher acknowledged the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria and traditional territory of the Tsartlip and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples 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 Fort St John Métis Society and the traditional territory of the Beaver of 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.

BC 2SLGBTQIA+ Chair – Minister De Jaeger acknowledged the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation in Palm Springs, CA from where he 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 Fisher

SECONDED: Minister De Jaeger

RESOLVED:

THAT the agenda of February 24, 2025, Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister De Jaeger

SECONDED: Minister Lavallee

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the January 21 and 23, 2025 Board of Directors meetings be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Update on Action Items

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

- **20240422-02 Senate Annual Report to Board of Directors** - The Senate is working on establishing a procedure for providing the Board with regular updates. They noted that they are currently developing the reporting process and format. The Senate plans to bring this back to the Board, likely with an update at the March Board meeting. (In-Progress);
- **20240523-01 16-Acre Will of Land to MNBC** – Returning Spring 2025, Minister Fisher will schedule a time to meet with Citizens to view the property. (In-Progress);
- **20241112-01 MWBC Resourcing** - The Government and Strategic Relations Team is working on developing communications to be sent to LFMO and WAGE regarding funding. It was noted that the Councils will also be involved in these conversations. (In-Progress).
- **20241209-01 Structure of Board of Director Meetings** - The Governance and Policy Committee is reviewing the structure of Board meetings and working on proposing any relevant suggestions for updates to the meeting format. (In-Progress).
- **20241209-02 Environmental Advisory Committee** – Item addressed at the February 24, 2025, Board of Directors meeting. (Complete).
- **20250121-01 Reaching Home Agreement and Rent Subsidy Program** - Item addressed at the February 24, 2025, Board of Directors meeting. (Complete).

3. President Update

It was noted that the Board has been kept informed about all ongoing meetings, including those in Saskatoon, Winnipeg, and the Executive Committee meetings.

4. Gender-based Violence Strategy - Métis Safe Communities Fund (APPROVAL)

Rachel Perkins, Director, Ministry of Women and Gender Equity and Lisa Fox, Senior Manager of Women and Gender Equity, joined the meeting at 8:42 AM.

Discussion ensued regarding the Métis Safe Community Fund, which aims to address gender-based violence within the 39 Chartered Communities. The proposal outlined that funds would be used to raise awareness and understanding of gender-based violence, as part of the broader Safe Métis Communities Strategy. The total funding for the first year was reviewed, with questions raised about the allocation, particularly regarding the funds being distributed directly to the Chartered Communities. It was noted that further details on the allocation would be provided in the upcoming General Gender-Based Violence and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) presentation.

The proposal includes several key components for the Gender-Based Violence Strategy, such as emergency support, healing, education, training, prevention, and collaboration with other service providers like counseling centers. The importance of active engagement from the Council Chairs in regional work was emphasized.

The process for proposal submission and funding allocation was discussed, with a preference for early engagement with Communities before proposals are submitted. The Métis Women British Columbia (MWBC) Council's preference for a 60/40 funding split was acknowledged, with agreement that all three Council Chairs must be involved in the process. Additionally, it was noted that the MWBC Regional Representatives should be consulted with by the Community Representatives regarding the Safe Communities Fund. It was also recognized that some communities may lack the capacity to take on this initiative, highlighting the need for Council

involvement. Reporting requirements were emphasized, with a reminder that Communities must submit reports to receive subsequent funding.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Carriere

SECONDED: Minister De Jaeger

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors, as recommended by the Métis Women of BC Council, approve the Safe Métis Community Fund for 39 Chartered Communities with a 60/40 funding allocation model (60% same level funding / 40% population based), as set out in the Briefing Note dated January 31, 2025, regarding strengthening gender-based violence awareness.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. General Gender-based Violence and Missing and Murdered Indigenous People's (MMIP) update (INFORMATION)

The Safe Métis Communities Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Strategy presentation was reviewed, emphasizing the impact of GBV on Métis people. Background information was provided, including previous funding and the development of a Strategic Framework, with a focus on the importance of community involvement throughout the process. The strategy's goals aim to establish Métis-specific GBV supports and services across the province, while also addressing the reduction, prevention, and healing of GBV. The guiding principles for the strategy include Métis culture and community, inclusion, strength-based healing, and collaboration. Action areas were discussed, outlining how MNBC plans to implement these objectives.

To support the strategy, a data and research analyst has been hired to establish baselines and metrics for data collection, along with a Gender-Based Violence Program Manager. These positions are funded through the government grant. Additionally, the importance of supporting Councils was emphasized, ensuring their active involvement in all conversations, planning, and collaboration.

Rachel Perkins, Director, Ministry of Women and Gender Equity and Lisa Fox, Senior Manager of Women and Gender Equity, left the meeting at 10:10 AM.

6. Break

Recessed for break at 10:10 AM – reconvened at 10:25 AM

7. 2025 AGM Venue (APPROVAL)

Mariel Hong, Events Manager, joined the meeting at 10:25 AM.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Harriott

SECONDED: Minister Lavallee

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approves the contract, in the amount of \$331,845.00, for the 2025 MNBC Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mariel Hong, Events Manager, left the meeting at 10:30 AM.

8. Committee Membership Changes - FAC and MBAC (APPROVAL)

Background on the proposed changes for various committees was provided, along with the reasoning behind these updates.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Harriott

SECONDED: Minister Flamond

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approves the following changes to Committee membership:

- Remove Minister Debra Fisher from the Finance and Audit Committee
- Add Minister Louis De Jaeger to the Finance and Audit Committee
- Remove Minister Dean Gladue from the Métis Business Advisory Committee
- Add Minister Louis De Jaeger to the Métis Business Advisory Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. MCSBC Transfer of Funds FY 2025-26 (APPROVAL)

Sharlene Wedel, Executive Director, Ministry of Education, Early Learning and K-12, Madeline Green, Director, Education, and Natasha Dempsey-Ceron, Senior Manager, Child Care Space Planning & Development, joined the meeting at 10:38 AM.

An overview was provided regarding the transfer of funds. It was noted that a meeting will be scheduled between the Service Providers, Minister Fisher, and the Chief Executive Officer to further discuss formalizing working relationships.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Harriott

SECONDED: Minister Fisher

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approves the transfer of \$399,845.52 in child care operational funds to the Métis Community Services Society of British Columbia (MCSBC), as described in the Briefing Note dated February 5, 2025, regarding the transfer of child care operational dollars to Métis Community Services Society BC (MCSBC).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. MFS Transfer of Funds FY 2025-26 (APPROVAL)

An overview was provided regarding the transfer of funds, noting that the funds are distributed in four increments.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Fisher

SECONDED: Minister Gervais

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approves the transfer of \$631,867 in child care operational funds as described in the Briefing Note dated February 5, 2025, regarding the transfer of child care operational dollars to Métis Family Services (MFS).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Continuation of Funding for Five Métis Service Providers for ELCC (APPROVAL)

Total increases were highlighted during the discussion, along with the funding allocated to each Service Provider.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Fisher

SECONDED: Minister Gervais

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approve a total of \$2,202,202.41 to provide financial support to the five Métis Service Providers for Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) programs and services, for the 2025-26 fiscal year, as described in the Briefing Note dated February 5, 2025, relating to funding for the following service providers, with a 3% increase included:

- Island Métis Family and Community Services Society
- Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services
- Métis Community Services Society BC
- Niwikowin Métis Family Services
- Métis Family Services.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sharlene Wedel, Executive Director, Ministry of Education, Early Learning and K-12, Madeline Green, Director, Education, and Natasha Dempsey-Ceron, Senior Manager, Child Care Space Planning & Development, left the meeting at 10:57 AM.

12. Port Alberni Clinic MOU and Naming of Clinic (APPROVAL)

Sasha Hobbs, Chief Strategy Officer, and Tanya Davoren, Executive Director of Health and Wellness, joined the meeting at 10:57 AM.

An overview of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and the proposed name, was provided. It was noted, that as requested at the Board Technical briefing, the MOU has been updated to include a conflict resolution clause. Once approved by the Board, it will be sent to the Community for review and signature.

MOTION:**MOVED:** Minister De Jaeger**SECONDED:** Minister Harriott**RESOLVED:**

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Alberni Clayoquot Society (ACMS) which outlines the roles of each party regarding the management of the Port Alberni Micro Clinic (Centre); and

THAT MNBC supports the ACMS Board in deciding the name of the clinic as Mamawii Health Centre.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sasha Hobbs, Chief Strategy Officer, and Tanya Davoren, Executive Director of Health and Wellness, left the meeting at 11:01 AM.

13. Rent Supplement Wrap Up (INFORMATION)

Chris Tupy, Executive Director of Housing Strategy and Operational Integration, Dillon McLellan, Senior Manager, Housing and Homelessness Support Programs, and Crystal Eggli, Administrative Coordinator, joined the meeting at 11:02 AM.

The background of the program was reviewed, with a focus on how individuals affected by the program's absence would be supported through other available resources. The full program budget was discussed, contributing to stronger advocacy efforts for provincial funding. It was highlighted that the current program, as it stands, is not sustainable. Discussions also addressed the need for targeted supports for women, youth, and Two-Spirit individuals within the program.

There was support for reinstating Town Halls to regularly discuss these topics and ensure communities stay informed about programs. The consideration and further discussion of the Rent Supplement Program will be postponed to the March 25, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

14. Rent Credit Program (INFORMATION)

Minister Hooper joined the meeting at 11:32 AM.

A presentation was provided outlining various scenarios, with a discussion on obtaining a legal opinion regarding the proposed amendments. Legal experts have been consulted, and while alternative options were considered, the proposed path forward was deemed the best course of action. It was noted that if tenants are unwilling to sign a new long-term lease after the initial one-year term, the leases would default month-to-month.

It was also noted that there is time to gather more information, as the related item was deferred to the next meeting. Housing will look into what other Region 7 First Nations Housing are doing as an example and will look on connecting with the Director of Dawson Creek First Nations housing for additional insights.

The consideration of the Rent Credit Program will be postponed to the March 25, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

15. Reaching Home Guideline Change (APPROVAL)

An overview was provided regarding changes to the Reaching Home Guidelines. It was highlighted that future changes and key topics will ensure funding is available for Métis individuals, particularly those at risk. The guideline changes are intended to serve as a safety net and balance, ensuring that support is provided to verified Métis citizens, while those in the citizenship process will also be eligible once verified by Citizenship.

The funding schedule was reviewed, and a concern was raised regarding support for individuals who self-identify as Métis but are not yet in the citizenship process. It was acknowledged that MNBC is working on strategies to support the most vulnerable individuals and is building internal capacity to address this issue. This will involve broader discussions on how to best support these individuals moving forward.

In the meantime, individuals can be directed to the Friendship Centers, and there was a suggestion to establish an information center to share details across various Ministries and programs.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Harriott

SECONDED: Minister Carriere

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors, as recommended by the Social Infrastructure Development Committee, approve changing the MNBC Reaching Home Program guidelines so that financial support is no longer available to self-determined Métis effective April 1, 2025, as described in the Briefing Note dated January 29, 2025, relating to whether self-identifying Métis should continue to receive financial support through the Reaching Home Program.

CARRIED with 8 in favour, one abstention, and one opposed.

Chris Tupy, Executive Director of Housing Strategy and Operational Integration, Dillon McLellan, Senior Manager, Housing and Homelessness Support Programs, and Crystal Eggli, Administrative Coordinator, left the meeting at 12:15 PM.

16. Lunch Break

Recessed for lunch break at 12:15 PM – reconvened at 1:15 PM

17. EAC Member Appointment (APPROVAL)

It was noted that there are three open vacancies on the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) and that all but one applicant have been confirmed to hold MNBC Citizenship. The remaining applicant is awaiting community acceptance. Further discussion focused on the individuals who had applied for these positions.

MOTION:**MOVED:** Minister Hooper**SECONDED:** Minister Harriott**RESOLVED:**

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors appoint the following citizens to the Environment Advisory Committee for a one-year term:

- Sofie Vielfaure
- Beth Lucier
- Toni Appleby.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**18. 2024 General Election and 2025 Byelection Results (INFORMATION)**

The meeting provided an overview of the 2024 General Election and 2025 Byelection results, with a review of election turnout data, including voter participation by region and age. It was noted that electronic ballots appeared to be preferred over mail-in ballots, possibly due to increased convenience, security, and the Canada Post strike. A copy of the presentation will be distributed to the Board members.

Regarding the byelection, all eligible voters over the age of 18 received notifications to vote, ensuring the protection of youth identities. The voter turnout for the byelection was 2.8%, which aligns with projected estimates. Further discussions focused on maintaining identity protection through mail-in ballot requests and pickups, as well as exploring a breakdown of ballot participation, particularly with age demographics.

19. Spring MNGA Resolutions (INFORMATION)

Colleen Hodgson, Executive Director, Citizenship and Children and Families and Alex Jacquard, Citizenship Quality Assurance Manager, joined the meeting at 1:50 PM.

The meeting included a review of the MNGA agenda and presenters, followed by a discussion of the resolutions. The Citizen Act Amendments were highlighted, focusing on updating language and processes to reflect the evolution of the Citizenship process. While no significant changes were made, the amendments modernize the language and clarify the section for individuals currently under review.

Regarding Article 12, it was noted that this is a separate document, and the resolution proposes its removal from the Citizenship Act. Background information on the update was provided, including scenarios to illustrate its application. It was noted that although the Article could be removed, future legislation could incorporate the necessary information.

A review of other resolutions brought forward to the MNGA was also conducted, and it was decided to schedule a meeting on Wednesday, February 26th, for further discussion and review.

Colleen Hodgson, Executive Director, Citizenship and Children and Families and Alex Jacquard, Citizenship Quality Assurance Manager, left the meeting at 2:25 PM.

20. Ministry of Agriculture (DISCUSSION)

Discussion focused on the positioning of the Agriculture portfolio within the current structure. One option considered was creating a separate Ministry of Food Security and Agriculture, which would allow for a dedicated focus on the work rather than grouping it with Environment and Climate Action. However, it was noted that there are currently insufficient resources and funding to establish a stand-alone Ministry. It was suggested that an internal staff member could be reassigned to support this work, instead of hiring externally.

Questions were raised regarding potential funding for the separation of Ministries. While there is no dedicated staff members for this at present, funding through MNBC and the New Relationship Trust could be leveraged. Additionally, the Grants writing team could explore opportunities to secure further funding for this portfolio.

It was proposed that Food Security and Agriculture could fall under Economic Development for the time being, until it becomes self-sustaining. The importance of involving Youth in the planning discussions was also highlighted. This topic will be revisited in the March 25th Board of Directors Meeting for further direction.

21. BC Ombudsperson - Exclusion of Students from School Investigation (INFORMATION)

It was noted that an email was received regarding the exclusion of students in K-12 schools related to a school investigation, and that a survey, sent by the BC Ombudsperson, is available to be filled out by April 1st. This was brought to the Board's attention as an opportunity for Métis youth to have their voices heard through the survey. A copy of the survey will be sent out, and it was suggested that the survey could also be forwarded to the Children and Families and Education departments for their reference.

22. Council Involvement (INFORMATION)

It was emphasized that Councils need to be included in MNBC's discussions and planning, especially when Ministries are planning services or events that relate to the Councils. Currently, there are significant silos, and better cross-communication and collaboration with the Councils is necessary.

Efforts are underway to address these silos, including updating the Briefing Note (BN) template to ensure that Councils are included in BNs that impact them. Once the template is drafted, Council Chairs will be consulted for their approval and confirmation.

23. MDGA Committee Ministry of Health - Métis Data Governance / Child Youth Health Indicator (DISCUSSION)

It was noted that during a recent meeting with the Métis Data Governance Committee (MDGC), that decisions were being rushed, despite no external urgency for a decision at this time. The priority should be to take more time to better understand what the PHSA expects from MNBC, as MNBC ultimately needs control over its own data. The PHSA plans to return for further discussions.

Given the background of previous discussions, it was emphasized that the MDGC needs additional conversations to fully update new Board members and plan the relationship moving forward. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for February 28th to discuss the topic, and it was suggested that further discussions should take place at the committee level before returning to the Board.

24. Elders Advisory Terms of Reference (DISCUSSION)

It was highlighted that the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Elders Steering Committee need to be revised and adopted at the Board level. Some communities have expressed interest in submitting more than one name for consideration and currently, the TOR does not align with existing expectations. It was emphasized that the TOR should be developed by the Committee, with each region appointing their own representatives in a non-political manner. Once the group is established, the committee will determine its operational structure.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Harriott

SECONDED: President Mineault

RESOLVED:

THAT the Elders Steering Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) be terminated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

With the TOR now terminated, the next steps involve internal discussions among the three Board members originally tasked with setting up this committee. These discussions will focus on the next action steps, followed by consultation with President Mineault before bringing the updates back to the Board.

25. Committee Meeting Minutes (INFORMATION)

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

- Métis Business Advisory Committee – 2024.05.29
- People and Culture Committee – 2024.11.26 and 2025.01.30
- Credit Union Exploratory Committee – 2024.11.28 and 2025.01.30
- Social Infrastructure Development Committee – 2024.12.03 and 2025.01.09
- Governance and Policy Committee – 2025.01.07 and 2025.02.04
- Awards and Recognition Committee – 2025.01.14

26. Ministry of Rights Workshop Meeting Minutes – January 30, 2025 (INFORMATION)

The meeting minutes and infographic image from the Ministry of Rights Workshop on January 30, 2025, was distributed to the Board for their information.

27. Correspondence (INFORMATION)

Correspondence from Métis National Council to President Mineault was distributed to the Board for their information.

28. Record of Decisions

A Record of Decisions for the Board of Directors and RGC Meetings was distributed to the Board for their information.

29. Meeting Moves In-Camera

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister De Jaeger

SECONDED: Minister Harriott

RESOLVED:

THAT the meeting move in-camera.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting moved in-camera at 3:37 PM

The meeting moved out of in-camera at 4:43 PM

30. Adjournment

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Harriott

SECONDED: Vice-President Allard

RESOLVED:

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 PM.

Approval Sheet

Approved by:  President

Approved by:  Secretary

Date: April 28, 2025