

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting:	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING		
Date of Meeting:	July 28, 2025	Time:	9:00 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 Dean Gladue
 Minister Debra Fisher
 Minister Louis De Jaeger
 Minister Patrick Harriott
 Minister Raynie Gervais
 Minister Susie Hooper

Participating Staff:

Colette Trudeau, Chief Executive Officer
 Leona Shaw, Executive Director, Environment, Climate Change and Food Security
 Mallory Blondeau, Director of Culture, Heritage and Language
 Drew Stewart, Senior Climate Change, Policies and Programs Manager
 Anisa White, Director of Governance and Corporate Secretary
 Carly Teillet, Executive Legal Counsel
 Catharine Schlenker, Justice Manager
 Barinder Lalli, Board Operations Manager
 Kayla Brow, Manager of Executive Operations
 Amanda Anderson, Cultural Coordinator
 Rachel Ouellette, Board Secretariat Coordinator
 Simran Bhatia, Board Executive Coordinator

Regrets:

Minister Paulette Flamond

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

Vice-President Allard called the meeting to order at 9:04 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 Waceya 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 acknowledged 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.

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 Chilliwack Métis Association and the traditional territorial land of Ts'elxweyeq and Pilalt Tribes of which 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.

2. MNBC Values

The Chief Executive Officer acknowledged the following MNBC Values and Board of Director Specific Values:

MNBC Organizational Values:

1. kwayes'kwât'sowin – Integrity
2. kisîwât'sowin – Kindness
3. ahtisihcikêwin – Innovation
4. manâcihitowin – Respect
5. atoskâtowin – Teamwork
6. tâpahtiyim'sowin – Humility
7. sîpihkisôwin – Resilience

MNBC Board of Director-Specific Values:

1. Collaboration
2. Transparency
3. Trust
4. Kindness

3. Meeting Moves In-Camera

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Hooper

SECONDED: Minister Harriott

RESOLVED:

THAT the meeting move in-camera.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting moved in-camera at 9:07 AM.

The meeting moved out of in-camera at 12:56 PM

4. Lunch Break

Recessed for break at 12:56 PM – reconvened at 1:37 PM

5. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Harriott

SECONDED: Minister Lavallee

RESOLVED:

THAT the agenda of the July 28-29, 2025, Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Conflict of Interest Declaration

It was noted that no Board members declared any conflicts of interest in relation to the approved agenda.

7. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes

Consideration of the approval for the June 24, 2025, meeting minutes was deferred to the next Board of Directors Meeting on August 18, 2025.

8. Update on Action Items

- **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).

9. Sole Source Contract Veritree (APPROVAL)

Leona Shaw, Executive Director, Environment, Climate Change and Food Security, Drew Stewart, Senior Climate Change, Policies and Programs Manager, joined the meeting at 1:42 PM

The Executive Director of Environment, Climate Change and Food Security provided background on the proposed briefing note (BN), highlighting that discussions on funding used for mass tree planting in BC began in 2021 when MNBC was part of the Métis National Council (MNC). Veritree was identified as the sole contractor for a multi-year proposal extending to 2031, with opportunities for smaller community planting projects and partnerships with the Ministry of Skills, Training, Employment, and Post-Secondary (STEPS) for training. The procurement process was reviewed, and it was highlighted that Veritree has technological advantages over other companies. The mass tree planting process and company details were further discussed, with emphasis on the significant effort invested in the project over the past six years. It was noted that MNBC secured \$12.5 million for the initiative.

Veritree's proprietary technology, which is guaranteed until 2036 with a first right of refusal afterward, was highlighted. There was also discussion about the potential to partner with First Nations for planting in areas such as wildfire-prone regions. It was suggested that collaboration could be explored with Chiefs and Councils, with an opportunity to build relationships with First Nations, including the Fort Nelson First Nation. Additionally, it was highlighted that this project could offer Youth land training opportunities, further expanding its potential community impact.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Hooper

SECONDED: Minister Gervais

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approve an exception to MNBC's Competitive Procurement Process to allow for the approval of a sole source vendor agreement to be awarded to Veritree Technology Inc. in the amount \$7.5 million.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Leona Shaw, Executive Director, Environment, Climate Change and Food Security, Drew Stewart, Senior Climate Change, Policies and Programs Manager, left the meeting at 2:06 PM

10. Justice Council TOR (APPROVAL)

Carly Teillet, Executive Legal Counsel, and Catharine Schlenker, Justice Manager, joined the meeting at 2:14 PM

The Métis Justice Services Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) was presented for review and approval. The TOR outlines the transition from the previously established Justice Council to the new advisory committee. The TOR was approved by the Governance and Policy Committee (GAP) for presentation to the Board for final review and approval. This TOR was also previously discussed at the Board Technical Briefing on July 25th.

A question was raised about the selection process for the five citizen representatives on the committee. It was clarified that, once the TOR is approved, a process will be developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to determine the desired representation and identify suitable candidates for the committee.

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

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors, as recommended by the Governance and Policy Committee, approve the Métis Justice Services Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Carly Teillet, Executive Legal Counsel, and Catharine Schlenker, Justice Manager, left the meeting at 2:24 PM

11. Funding Request for SOSMA's Louis Riel Day (APPROVAL)

A request for Louis Riel Day funding from the South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association (SOSMA) was reviewed. The submission indicated that SOSMA had already received \$10,000 from the Michif Celebrations Grant and was selling \$20 tickets to help cover additional costs. It was highlighted that Chartered Communities will receive funding for Louis Riel Day in the fall, while the funding for National Indigenous Peoples Day has already been distributed

It was emphasized that a clear process needs to be established to track previous funding allocated to Chartered Community events and ensure better oversight when new funding requests are made. Once after-event reports are received from groups, the Vice-President will confirm their receipt. Additionally, it was suggested that a more structured process be developed, including a grading matrix to assess the value and impact of each funding request. There was also discussion regarding the potential for handling certain funding requests regionally, though this may not be suitable for larger regions

ACTION ITEM (20250728-01): The Chief Executive Officer will work with internal staff to develop a structured process for when Chartered Communities request funding for events.

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

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors will direct the CEO to respond to the South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association (SOSMA) outlining the available funding pools currently provided by MNBC to support the Louis Riel Day event.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

President Mineault joined the meeting at 2:28 PM.

12. Funding Request for WACEYA (APPROVAL)

The funding request from the Waceya Métis Society to support a Métis Night with the Vancouver Giants was reviewed. The event aims to feature vendors, live jiggling and fiddling, a performance of the Métis national anthem, an Elders Spotlight, and a "We Are the Métis" feature.

There was strong support for the event, with recognition of its potential to showcase MNBC and highlight local artists and Métis culture. The idea of promoting the event, similar to previous support for Hockey in Kamloops, was noted, with the possibility of further promotion at the AGM.

Additionally, it was suggested that Waceya reach out to the Ministry of Sports, which is working on developing a Western Hockey League, to explore potential collaboration. It was noted that funds for supporting this event would come from the Board Discretionary Fund.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Lavallee

SECONDED: Minister Hooper

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approve funding in the amount of \$10,000 to Waceya Métis Society to support Métis Night with the Vancouver Giants;

AND FURTHER THAT Waceya Métis Society provide a report back to MNBC following the event.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. Design of MNBC Sash (APPROVAL)

Mallory Blondeau, Director of Culture, Heritage and Language, and Amanda Anderson, Cultural Coordinator, joined the meeting at 3:06 PM. President Mineault left the meeting at 3:08 PM.

The Director of Culture, Heritage and Language (CHL) noted that the sash survey has been updated based on feedback from the technical briefing on Friday, July 25th, and a new link will be provided to the Board. If approved to proceed, the design process can begin. Additional research on other government and community sashes has been conducted and incorporated into the presentation.

A question was raised about whether regions should have patches on their sashes, and it was clarified that this would be at the discretion of the regions.

Four design options were presented, with pattern choices including Quebec, Weaver, Coventry, and L'Assomption. The next steps involve gathering further input on preferred patterns, colors, and other details via the survey. Once the information is collected, the process will move forward, and an update will be provided to the Board.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Harriott

SECONDED: Minister Gladue

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approve the creation of a custom MNBC sash.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mallory Blondeau, Director of Culture, Heritage and Language, and Amanda Anderson, Cultural Coordinator, left the meeting at 3:17 PM



14. Adjournment

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Carriere

SECONDED: Minister Lavallee

RESOLVED:

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Approval Sheet

Approved by: Melanie Allard Acting President

Approved by: [Signature] Secretary

Date: August 18, 2025