



DRAFT CITIZENS' GATHERING MEETING MINUTES	
DATE:	August 16, 2024
LOCATION:	Edmonton Expo Centre 7515 118 Ave NW, Edmonton AB T5B 0J2
ROOM:	HALL F

### Opening Prayer

10:00 am Knowledge Keeper Norma Spicer delivered the opening Prayer.

### Establish Quorum

9:50 AM The Secretary of Citizenship and Registry, Joseph Chodzicki, reported 473 registered citizens in attendance.

### Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

10:06 AM The Chair called the 2024 Annual Citizens' Gathering to order and appointed the Sergeant of Arms as Cst. Derrick Campbell and confirmed the Cree Translator as Marlene L'Hirondelle.

### Agenda Item #2 – Adoption of Agenda

10:07 AM **MOTION #20240816-1:**  
**Moved by: Brian Hamelin**  
That the agenda for the August 16, 2024, Annual Citizens' Gathering be adopted as presented.  
**Seconded by: Audrey Poitras**

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

### Agenda Item #3 – Government Reports

10:07AM The Chair invited each Otipemisiwak Métis Government Provincial Secretary along with the department director or manager for each department and institution, to report on their activities and achievements over the 2023/24 fiscal year, as information to the gathering attendees.

Citizens were provided with an opportunity to ask questions following each report.

10:07 AM Consultation – President Andrea Sandmaier & Director Theo Peters

10:22 AM Intergovernmental Relations – President Andrea Sandmaier & Manager Wyatt Telford



**Agenda Item #4 – Government of Alberta Announcement**

11:01 AM      Announcement of Healing Waters Recovery Centre – President Andrea Sandmaier, Secretary of Mental Health and Wellness Kaila Mitchell and Honorable Dan Williams, GOA Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

President Sandmaier and Secretary Mitchell announced a partnership with the Government of Alberta for the creation of a recovery centre at Métis Crossing that will be Métis owned and operated.

Construction has begun on the 75-bed facility that will include land-based healing retreats, a pilot program for opioid wrap around supports and up to twelve months of residency at no cost while receiving individualized support.

Hon. Dan Williams brought greetings on behalf of Premier Danielle Smith and shared that Alberta is investing \$350 million dollars for 11 recovery communities in the province, with Healing Waters being the fifth facility with construction underway and expected to open in 2026.

*Due to timing, questions were not available.*

**Agenda Item #5 – Government Reports Continued**

11:16 AM      Advancement of Women & Girls – Secretary Tai Amy Graumann

11:38 AM      Métis Settlement & First Nation Relations – Secretary Karen (KC) Collins

1:04 PM      Health – Secretary Bobbi Paul-Alook & Director Reagan Bartel

1:22 PM      Mental Health & Addictions – Secretary Kaila Mitchell & Director Reagan Bartel

1:42 PM      Tourism & Economic Development – General – Secretary Lisa San Filippo & Manager Wyatt Telford

2:05 PM      Tourism – Métis Crossing – Secretary Lisa San Filippo & Chief Executive Officer Juanita Marois

2:27 PM      Economic Development – Apeetogosan – Secretary Lisa San Filippo & Chief Executive Officer, Carol Sales

3:04 PM      Registrar's Report – Secretary Joe Chodzicki & Registrar Shawn McKay

3:17 PM      Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management – Secretary Jason Chernow & Director Andres Filella

3:38 PM      Language – Secretary Shannon Dunfield for Secretary Lisa Wolfe & Manager Mike Parks

3:58 PM      Education & Training – RLI – Secretary Shannon Dunfield for Secretary Lisa Wolfe & Chief Executive Officer, Tavia Laliberte



4:11 PM Education & Training – MEF – Secretary Shannon Dunfield & Senior Executive Officer, Lisa Savill

**Agenda Item #6 – Gathering in Recess**

4:34 PM The Chair declared that the meeting of the 2024 Annual Citizens' Gathering be in recess until 9:00 am Saturday August 17, 2024



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Establish Quorum

9:15 AM Secretary of Registry Joe Chodzicki reported 424 registered citizens in attendance.

Agenda Item #6 - Recall to Order

9:17 AM The Chair recalled the 2024 Annual Citizens' Gathering to order.

Agenda Item #7 - Government Reports Continued

9:24 AM President's Report – President Andrea Sandmaier

9:34 AM Secretary of Records Report – Secretary Shannon Dunfield

Secretary Dunfield provided updates on the Ordinary and Special Resolutions passed at the 95<sup>th</sup> AGA and confirmed that next year, Citizens' Council will prepare a report on actions taken from the proposals presented at this gathering.

- Special Resolution #1 re: Transition to District Councils – this work is ongoing and will be addressed in the Self-Government and Transition report.
- Ordinary Resolution #1 re: Métis Settlements – President Sandmaier created a portfolio specifically to address the Métis Settlement and First Nation relations.

10:07 AM **MOTION #20240817-1:**  
**Moved by:** Audrey Poitras  
The minutes of the 95th Annual General Assembly, be approved as presented.  
**Seconded by:** Craig Letendre

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

9:45 AM Ombudsman & Judicial Branch Report – Senior Director Garrett Tomlinson



Senior Director Garrett Tomlinson advised that the Ombudsman, Phillip Werth was appointed in November 2023 and is in the process of developing the requirements and standing up the Office of the Ombudsman per the Constitution.

The five-member Judicial Tribunal is fully appointed as of Spring, 2024 with the members attending workshops and preparing to start their work in fall of 2024.

Detailed biographies of all Otipemisiwak Government Appointed Officers can be found in the Annual Report 2023/24.

9:50 AM 2023 General Elections Report – Chief Electoral Officer Del Graff

Mr. Graff provided an overview of the work his office completed in the year, including an overview of the office, key points that preceded the 2023 General Election, hiring of elections staff, complaints and citizen participation with ideas on how to improve the elections process.

He is working with policy advisors to develop clear practices, support planning for district elections and reporting results and communications around elections.

10:49 AM Citizens' Council Report – Chair Garrett Tomlinson

10:57 AM Harvesting & Culture – Secretary Grant Lacombe & Harvesting Manager, Craig Letendre

11:31 AM Self-Government & Transition – President Andrea Sandmaier, Senior Director Garrett Tomlinson & Manager Nicole Shepherd

11:52 AM Path to Self-Government – Legal Counsel Jason Madden

Mr. Madden provided updates on the status of Bill C53, the federal court decision on the challenge to the Self-Government Agreement by Metis Settlements General Council and the Fort McKay Metis, and treaty negotiations with Canada. He confirmed that while the Courts struck down Chapter 6 and the definition of Metis within Alberta in the agreement, that it remains in place and legally binding on Canada. Negotiations on the agreement will be finalized by 2025 with a ratification vote by citizens, as was done with the Constitution.

#### **Agenda Item #8 – Federal Government Announcement**

12:16PM Canada's Commitment – Frank Osendarp, Chief Federal Negotiator, Canada & Michael Schintz, Federal Negotiations Manager, Canada

Mr. Osendarp provided greetings from the Minister and confirmed Canada's commitment to a renewed government to government relationship as well as reaffirm a shared commitment to implement the Metis right to self-government.



Canada is committed to walking hand in hand on reconciliation and working toward a Modern Treaty with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government

Agenda Item #9 – Government Reports Continued

- 1:47 PM Children & Family Services – Secretary Brooke Bramfield & Director Kelsey Bradburn
- 2:08 PM Youth & Sport – Secretary Rebecca Lavalée & Director Melissa Tipler
- 2:23 PM Métis Urban Housing / Métis Capital Housing – Secretary Valarie Quintal & Senior Executive Officer, Aaron Barner
- 3:18 PM Métis Nation Holdings – Secretary Valarie Quintal & Director Ron Harrison
- 3:31 PM Justice – President Andrea Sandmaier & Director Sharon Bourque
- 4:08 PM Secretary of the Treasury / Auditor General Report – Secretary Jason Ekeberg, Senior Executive Officer, Aaron Barner, Director Ryan Fleming & Auditor General Ruben Jeffrey

Agenda Item #10 – Citizens' Proposals

- 4:49PM PROPOSAL #1  
**MOTION #20240817-2:**  
**Moved by:** Krista Leddy  
That the Citizens' Council consider the creation of 2SLGBTQ+ coordinators into the departments within the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.  
**Seconded by:** Kayla Lar-son

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

- 4:52PM PROPOSAL #2  
**MOTION #20240817-3:**  
**Moved by:** Jaron Breland  
That the Citizens' Council consider the creation of a portfolio for a Secretary of Two Spirit, 2SLGBTQ+ within the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, with their own mandate.  
**Seconded by:** Krista Leddy

*No Debate*



**Result:** Carried by Consensus

4:54PM

PROPOSAL #3

**MOTION #20240817-4:**

**Moved by:** Colette Poitras

That the Citizens' Council consider there be elder, youth, two-spirit, and women positions on committees and advisory councils, where reasonable.

**Seconded by:** Susan Cunningham

*This motion was altered by an amendment to include women, which was accepted by the mover and seconder.*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

5:02PM

PROPOSAL #4

**MOTION #20240817-5:**

**Moved by:** Barbara Hermansen

That the Citizens' Council consider scheduling a formal government to government meeting with Fort Chipewyan Métis Nation, and extend it to any other Métis Community interested, to be held within 60 days.

**Seconded by:** Frankie Berland

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

5:05PM

PROPOSAL #5

**MOTION #20240817-6:**

**Moved by:** Josh Morin

That the Citizens' Council consider the creation of legitimate language immersion programs and look at feasibility costs as well as exploring partnerships with educational institutions that support language learning.

**Seconded by:** Agnes Novak

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

5:07PM

PROPOSAL #6

**MOTION #20240817-7:**



**Moved by:** Tracy Brown

That the Citizens' Council considers holding Citizen engagement sessions in each District to conduct needs assessments in the areas of health, seniors, mental health and addictions.

**Seconded by:** Pat Brothers

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

5:08PM

PROPOSAL #7

**MOTION #20240817-8:**

**Moved by:** Trevor Ward

That the Citizens' Council consider creating more inclusive forms of communication from District Captains/District Councils, by having an annual report presented at the Citizens' Gathering, either written or verbal, on the activities and best practices used by District Captains.

**Seconded by:** Jamie Rozema-Stinson

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

5:11PM

PROPOSAL #8

**MOTION #20240817-9:**

**Moved by:** Don Pente

That the Citizens' Council consider recognizing the return to Jasper, AB to mark the day, for those Metis citizens who were allowed to return after the wildfires, based on the history of Jasper and its importance.

**Seconded by:** Georgina Supernault

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

5:12PM

PROPOSAL #9

**MOTION #20240817-10:**

**Moved by:** Georgina Supernault

That the Citizens' Council consider ways to make youth programs more community based rather than centralized.

**Seconded by:** Barb Emmrich





*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

5:13PM

PROPOSAL #10

**MOTION #20240817-11**

**Moved by:** Chantelle Trudel

That the Citizens' Council considers providing more cultural programming to adults, as it does for youth.

**Seconded by:** Jamie Rozema-Stinson

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

5:25PM

PROPOSAL #11

**MOTION #20240817-12:**

**Moved by:** Kelly Myers

That the Citizens' Council considers allowing citizens to identify which District they would like to be registered with, based on their historical ties as opposed to where they live.

**Seconded by:** Bryan Fayant

*Debate from the floor*

*Upon review and advice from administration, the Chair confirmed that this proposal conflicts with s.4 of the Elections and Referenda Act.*

**Result:** Ruled Out of Order

5:27PM

PROPOSAL #12

**MOTION #20240817-13:**

**Moved by:** Chantelle Trudel

That the Citizens' Council consider a way to strengthen communication between Citizens' Representatives, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, District offices and Citizens.

**Seconded by:** Barb Emmrich

*No Debate*



**Result:** Carried by Consensus

5:32PM

PROPOSAL #13

**MOTION #20240817-14:**

**Moved by:** Robyn Mcgeough

That the Citizens' Council consider having a secondary membership for Métis whose home community is Alberta and may be eligible for citizenship though may not reside in their home territory.

**Seconded by:** Maureen Mcgeough

*Debate from the floor*

*Upon review and advice from administration, the Chair confirmed that s. 4(2) of the Citizenship Act allows for this.*

**Result:** Deemed Unnecessary - Withdrawn

5:31PM

PROPOSAL #14

**MOTION #20240817-13:**

**Moved by:** Barb Tatum

That the Citizens' Council consider setting aside a piece of land somewhere for gardening for citizens.

**Seconded by:** Melissa Zarft

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

#### Agenda Item #11– Adjournment

5:46 PM

**MOTION #20240817-15:**

**Moved by:** Mike Durocher

Being no further business properly on the Agenda , and Adjournment having been moved from the floor, the Chair declared the 2024 Annual Citizens' Gathering of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to stand adjourned until further notice.