
MÉTIS VOICES. OTIPEMISIWAK MÉTIS GOVERNMENT.



TRANSITION PLAN

Journey to Otipemisiwak Métis Government

DEVELOPED BY THE TRANSITION COMMITTEE
ADOPTED BY PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 2023



TRANSITION COMMITTEE LETTER TO CITIZENS: TRANSITION PLAN

Dear Citizens,

To support the Métis Nation of Alberta's ("MNA") transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, the MNA Transition Committee ("Transition Committee" or "the Committee") was established by Annual General Assembly Resolution in 2021. Following the historic ratification of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution in November 2022, the MNA has been undertaking important activities to transition to a new Métis Government.

We, the Transition Committee, are an independent, neutral, and nonpolitical advisory body. We were established with representation across the province to work with Provincial, Regional, and Local Councils to design a plan to transition the MNA and its governance structures to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. To achieve this important mandate, we have been working closely with the MNA, Provincial Council, the Laws Group, Regional Councils, and Local Councils to develop the Transition Plan. It was a priority that the Transition Plan would be in place when the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution came into force in September 2023. However, the transition will continue after September 2023 and continue to be guided by the Transition Plan.

To develop the Transition Plan, we undertook a three-stage approach:

1. *Information Gathering*: Gathered information through three main sources: Information Sessions with Citizens, consultation with the Laws Group, and briefings and information received from the MNA Self-Government Team.
2. *Drafting the Transition Plan*: During this stage of development, we collaborated with the MNA Self-Government Team and the Laws Group to identify transition options for Local Councils, Regional Councils, and Affiliates. The transition options were further developed and explored in consultation with Regional and Local Councils.
3. *Additional Consultation*: Since the Information Sessions in May, we have provided Citizens with additional information on the Transition Plan and the Transition Committee's activities.

The Transition Plan below provides guidance and support to enable the transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. The plan includes the following resources:

- An overview of the development of the Transition Plan and the timeline for transitioning to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government;
- Scenarios for how Local and Regional Councils may transition to District Councils;
- Step-by-step activities to transition to District Councils;
- Scenarios for the transition of the MNA Affiliates to Institutions of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government; and
- The next steps to support transition.

The work we have done to date would not have been possible without the input and advice from Citizens of the MNA. We have benefited from the opportunity to meet with more than five hundred (500) Citizens since the Transition Committee was established. The views and perspectives of these Citizens and others have been critical in the Transition Plan's development. We are deeply grateful to all Citizens for their participation in the transition process.

Sincerely,

The Transition Committee



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TRANSITION PLAN: TRANSITION OVERVIEW

“When the Government of Canada presented itself at our doors it found us at peace. It found that the Métis people of the North-West could not only live well without it ... but that it had a government of its own, free, peaceful, well-functioning, continuing to the work of civilization ... It was a government with an organized constitution, whose jurisdiction was all the more legitimate and worthy of respect, because it was exercised over a country that belonged to it.” – Louis Riel, 1885.

Over generations, the Métis have consistently fought for their right to self-government, from the laws of the buffalo hunt to the creation of provisional governments in 1869-70 and 1885. As written in the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, on *“June 27, 2019, after generations of struggle and dedication, we signed a Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement with Canada that recognizes the Métis Nation within Alberta’s inherent right to self-government and sets out a process to ensure the full scope of our inherent jurisdiction and rights are recognized in Canadian law and are not limited or diminished by colonial law or as negotiations continue. Now, as a people, we have come together, based on the democratic will of our Citizens, to adopt this Constitution of the Métis Nation within Alberta, which formally establishes the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and is the highest law of the Métis Nation within Alberta”*. The transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government is another step in the journey to self-government and self-determination. This comes with benefits for Citizens, community-led governance, and the ability for the government to deliver province-wide services and programs.

OUR JOURNEY

Summer 2021: The Transition Committee’s mandate is established by a resolution of the MNA’s Annual General Assembly.

Summer 2022: The MNA’s Annual General Assembly adopts the third draft of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, allowing for a province-wide vote to be held.

Fall 2022: The largest Indigenous ratification vote in Canadian history is held, with 96.9% of Citizens voting ‘yes’ to ratify the Constitution.

Throughout 2022-2023: The Transition Committee began to develop a Transition Plan that supports the ongoing work to transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

Spring 2023: The Transition Committee hosted Information Sessions in each MNA Region, attended by over five hundred (500) Citizens.

Spring-Summer 2023: The Transition Committee refines the draft Transition Plan, working closely with Provincial Council, the Laws Group, and the MNA’s Self-Government Team.

Fall 2023: The Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution came into force after leadership was elected in the General Election.

Ongoing: The transition from Local and Regional Councils to District Councils as outlined in this Transition Plan will commence after the General Election.



THE TRANSITION COMMITTEE

The Transition Committee is an independent, neutral, and nonpolitical advisory body. The Transition Committee was established with representation across the province and was comprised of 16 members: a Chair, a Vice Chair, two appointed representatives from each MNA Region, and two youth representatives.

- Chair – Audrey Poitras
- Vice Chair – Dan Cardinal
- Region 1 – Bill Loutitt
- Region 1 – Ernest Deschambeau
- Region 2 – Angela Field
- Region 3 – Ward Sutherland
- Region 3 – Grant Britton
- Region 4 – Brenda Joy Sinclair
- Region 4 – Alice Berger
- Region 5 – Walter Andreeff
- Region 5 – Jamie Chalifoux
- Region 6 – Pat Brothers
- Region 6 – Camellia Ridsdale

Please note: Some appointed representatives of the Transition Committee stepped down to pursue elected office in the Otipemisiwak Métis Government General Election.

Since its establishment, the Transition Committee has worked together diligently to create the Transition Plan. Four Transition Committee members announced their intention to run in the September General Election and stepped down to allow the Committee to continue progressing its mandate without potential conflicts of interest.

The mandate of the Transition Committee was first established, as directed by a 2021 Annual General Assembly (AGA) resolution where Citizens voted to establish a Transition Committee, to work with Provincial, Regional, and Local Councils to transition the MNA to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government by way of developing a Transition Plan. To achieve this, the Transition Committee has been working with the MNA, Provincial Council, the Laws Group, Regional Councils, and Local Councils to develop a Transition Plan that will set out, among other things:

- a) How the various interests, assets, and liabilities of each MNA Local Council and Regional Council may be transitioned to a District Council as a part of the future Otipemisiwak Métis Government, as contemplated under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, while ensuring ongoing local and/or regional benefit and control of any currently held interests and assets; and
- b) How the relationship of the current affiliates of the MNA will be maintained and transitioned to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, including the possibility that they be continued as Institutions of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, as well as the potential for legislation to be developed to set out their distinct mandates and independence within the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

THE TRANSITION PLAN

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution states under article 31.3 that:

“As of the coming into force of this Constitution, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government shall have in place a transition plan that determines, among other things:



- a) *how the rights, titles, interests, assets, obligations, and liabilities of each Local Council and Regional Council of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association are to be vested in the Otipemisiwak Métis Government or a District Council as their successor; and*
- b) *how the relationships of the affiliates of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association are to be maintained with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.”*

As a result, the Transition Committee developed the Transition Plan. The Transition Plan provides information to support the transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. This includes:

- How Regional and Local Councils may transition to District Councils, while ensuring ongoing benefit and control of assets and interests at the local and regional level; and
- How MNA affiliated entities, such as Métis Crossing, Rupertsland Institute or Métis Urban Housing Corporation will transition to Institutions of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

The Transition Committee worked closely with the MNA, Provincial Council, Regional Councils, Local Councils, Citizens, and the Laws Group to develop the Transition Plan. Information gathering was a critical component to developing the Transition Plan.

Throughout the month of May and July/August 2023, the Transition Committee hosted Information Sessions in each Region. With over five hundred (500) Citizens in attendance, the Information Sessions provided an open forum for Citizens to ask questions about the transition and share their feedback on the information provided. To support information sharing during and after the sessions, a variety of resources were produced and shared at the sessions and online at MNAConstitution.com. These materials included a Transition Brochure, District Atlas, Maps Brochure, and copies of the Constitution as ratified in November 2022.

In addition, there was ongoing consultation with the MNA’s legal counsel to understand the transition options for Local Councils, Regional Councils, and Affiliates. This consultation formed the basis for the Transition Plan, which provides the resources and processes for how Local Councils and Regional Councils may transition to District Councils.

THE OTIPEMISIWAK MÉTIS GOVERNMENT – BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

The Constitution makes several changes to the governance structures of the Métis Nation within Alberta. As set out by the Constitution, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government will consist of the following branches:

1. **The Judicial Branch:** The Judicial Branch will consist of one or more impartial bodies to resolve disputes relating to citizenship, leadership, appeals of decisions, and the interpretation of laws, regulations, policies, and actions.
2. **The Citizens’ Council:** The Citizens’ Council will be the legislative body of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and make decisions on policies, programs, and proposed laws. The Citizens’ Council consists of the following elected officials: President, a Citizens’ Representative from each District, Women’s Representative, and Youth Representative.
3. **The Citizens’ Gathering:** The Citizens’ Gathering will be called every summer by the Citizens’ Council. It aims to bring Citizens together to share in Métis social, cultural, political, and spiritual activities, and will serve as a forum for Citizens to ask questions, provide their views, and table proposals.
4. **The District Councils:** Each District may have a District Council. A District Council is a governance structure of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government with its own legal status. District Councils will be comprised of a District Captain, who will head the District Council, and District Councillors.



OVERVIEW OF STEPS TO TRANSITION TO THE OTIPEMISIWAK MÉTIS GOVERNMENT

For the MNA to transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, a number of important steps were taken by the MNA, Provincial Council, and the Transition Committee. These steps included:

- The drafting and passage of **Otipemisiwak Métis Government Laws**, including new Bylaws at a Special Meeting in May 2023 and a new Elections and Referenda Act;
- The introduction of **Federal Legislation**, Bill C-53, to provide recognition of Métis Governments in Alberta, Ontario, and Saskatchewan;
- Preparation for a **General Election** in September 2023; and
- Development of a **Transition Plan** to support Local Councils, Regional Councils and MNA Affiliates to transition.

These activities occurred simultaneously throughout 2022 and 2023 to enable the commencement of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government in September 2023.

TRANSITION PLAN: LOCAL COUNCILS

BENEFITS OF THE OTIPEMISIWAK MÉTIS GOVERNMENT

The transition process for District Councils has been and will continue to be developed in collaboration with the Local Councils in each District. This flexible process will ensure that the new governance structure reflects the needs and reality of the Citizens in each District. This involves temporarily transitioning Local Councils into District Councils that maintain legal status and capacity under the *Societies Act*. Some key benefits of transitioning to a District Council are set out below:

Access Stable Funding:

- Access to annual core funding to support operations.

Full Access to Benefits and Services:

- Maintain relationship to the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government; and
- Receive full access to Otipemisiwak Métis Government benefits and services.

New Authorities and Responsibilities:

- District Councils can take on many new authorities and responsibilities set out in the Constitution, including the following:
 - a) The operation of the District Council, including the holding of meetings, elections, financial management, accountability, and reporting to Citizens residing in the District;
 - b) Administration of the business of the District Council;
 - c) The conduct of consultation and accommodation with the Crown, industry, and other Indigenous groups on behalf of the Citizens residing in the District regarding their rights, claims, and interests;
 - d) Environmental monitoring in relation to the District;
 - e) Repatriation, ownership, and management of lands for the use and benefit of the Citizens residing in the District;
 - f) Overseeing Institutions to develop and deliver programs and services for the benefit of the Citizens residing in the District;



- g) Consulting with Citizens within the District regarding and voting on ratification of any modern-day treaty or land claims agreement with the Crown;
- h) Authority and responsibility regarding specified matters as delegated by the Citizens' Council; and
- i) Instituting and amending policies in relation to the above listed matters provided that such policies are consistent with Otipemisiwak Métis Government laws.

Provide Legal Certainty:

- Maintain legal status and capacity under *Societies Act* during the transition process; and
- Following the conclusion of a self-government treaty with the Crown, receive legal status and capacity as a governance structure of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government through federal implementation legislation.

Representation of Rights Bearing Communities:

- Citizens and rights bearing communities will maintain their rights as outlined in the Constitution; and
- Citizens and rights bearing communities will be represented in decisions by the government.

BACKGROUND

With the ratification, adoption, and implementation of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, the MNA's six large administrative Regions will be transitioned to 22 smaller Districts, each of which will directly elect representatives to advocate for them at the **Citizens' Council**. There will also be new District level governance structures called **District Councils**. The formation of a District Council is an opportunity for Citizens in each District to establish a robust local level self-government. District Councils will ensure good governance and effective representation of the Métis Nation within Alberta Citizens in all Districts established under the Constitution.

The MNA will work with the current Local Councils to ensure that all Local Councils that wish to do so can transition to District Councils. This section of the Transition Plan will explain the transition process.

LOCAL COUNCIL TO DISTRICT COUNCIL TRANSITION OPTIONS

Through consultation and work undertaken by the Committee, the future Districts of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government were placed into three categories:

1. A District which currently has **one Local Council**;
2. A District which currently has **more than one Local Council**; and
3. A District which currently has **no Local Council**.

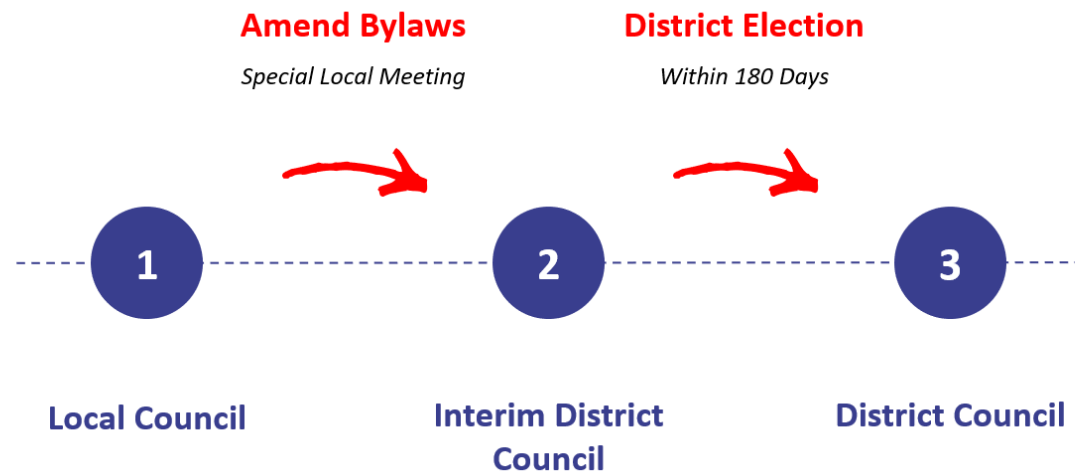
For each of these categories, a process has been developed to help guide Local Councils through the important activities required for transition to District Councils. In the next part of the Transition Plan, each of these categories will be explained, including:

- The transition process;
- A high-level list of activities required to transition from a Local Council to a District Council;
- The list of Local Councils in each of the Districts this process would apply to; and
- Detailed steps for each of the scenarios listed above.

LOCAL COUNCIL TO DISTRICT COUNCIL TRANSITION OPTIONS: 1. A DISTRICT WHICH CURRENTLY HAS ONE LOCAL COUNCIL

Transition Process

Districts which currently have only one existing Local Council would broadly follow the following process:



High-Level Activities

The **high-level** activities required to transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government include:

- At first, these Local Councils would continue to operate under the existing *Societies Act*.
- To allow the Local Council to transition, the Local Council Bylaws would need to be amended at a Special Meeting.
 - Note that each District Council's bylaws may vary to consider the specific circumstances and needs of the Citizens of the District. However, there are certain provisions that all District Councils will need in their bylaws to comply with the Constitution, Otipemisiwak Métis Government law, and the *Societies Act*.
- If the bylaws are passed at the Special Local Council Meeting, the Local Council would become an **interim District Council**. This would mean that the existing Local Council would continue to serve as the interim District Council. For example, the existing Local President would continue as the interim District Captain.
- This **interim District Council** would continue until a **District-level election can be held**. This election must occur **no later than 180 days following the Local Council's transition to an interim District Council**. For example, if a Local Council passed its bylaws at a Special Local Meeting in December 2023, a District-level election for a new District Captain should be held by June 2024.

This process will apply to the **majority of Districts** under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. In these instances, the Local Council's assets, liabilities, property, and contracts will remain with the new District Council.



List of Districts with One Local Council

Table represents a point in time and is subject to change.

Region #	Local Council Name	Local #	Future District	Interim District Name*
3	Medicine Hat	8	2	Medicine Hat Métis District
	Calgary	87	5	Calgary Nose Hill Métis District
4	Central Edmonton Métis Local Community Association	N/A	10	Edmonton Whitemud Métis District
	St. Albert – Sturgeon County	N/A	11	St. Albert Métis District
6	Fort Vermilion	74	15	Fort Vermilion Métis District
1	Fort Chipewyan	125	16	Fort Chipewyan Métis District
	Fort McMurray	1935	17	Fort McMurray Métis District
	Conklin	193	18	Conklin Métis District
	Lac La Biche	2097	19	Lac La Biche Métis District
5	Slave Lake	19	21	Lesser Slave Lake Métis District

**Note: As part of establishing a District Council, each District is assigned a name that reflects the distinctive features of the land, Métis history, or contemporary Métis experience. The name of the District may be changed in accordance with Otipemisiwak Métis Government Law and in consultation with the Citizens of each District.*

Step-by-Step Activities

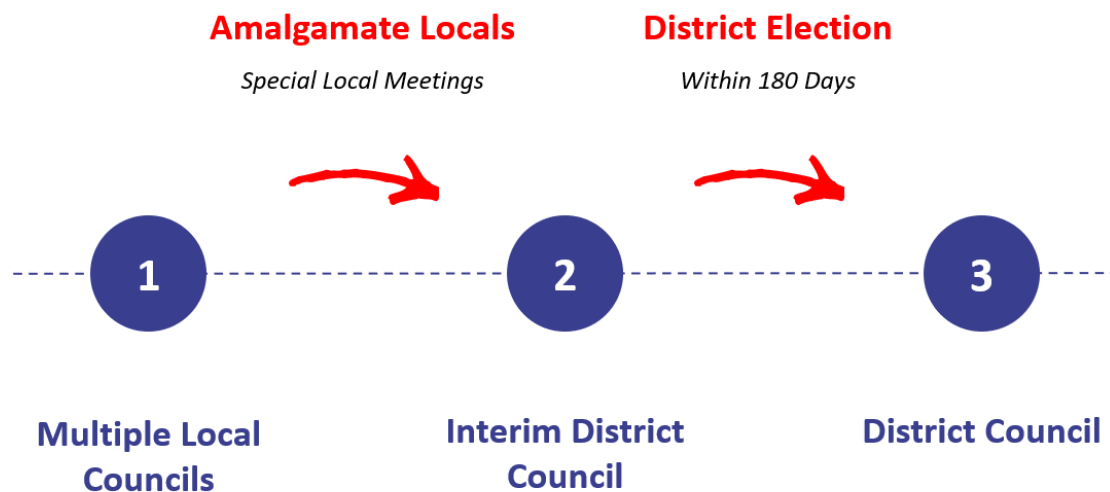
Step	Action
1	Using Model Bylaws as a starting point, proposed bylaws of the District Council must be prepared.
2	An Alberta Newly Updated Automated Name Search (NUANS) report must be obtained in respect of the District Council's proposed name, which is to be in accordance with applicable Otipemisiwak Métis Government law. The Alberta NUANS report is required to ensure the District Council's name can be used in Alberta. The MNA can assist with obtaining this NUANS report.
3	The proposed bylaws and other materials will be submitted to the MNA to ensure they conform to the Constitution and any applicable Otipemisiwak Métis Government law.
4	A Special Meeting must be held at which the Local Council's members will be asked to pass a special resolution that approves the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Changing the Local Council's name to reflect its transition to a District Council; b. Amending the Local Council's existing bylaws to adopt the draft bylaws; and c. Amending the Local Council's existing objects to adopt Model Objects. The existing Local Council bylaws should be reviewed to determine any specific requirements to call and hold a valid Special Meeting and pass a special resolution. Generally, notice of the Special Meeting must be provided to all members of the Local Council at least 21 days in advance of the Special Meeting. At the Special Meeting, the special resolution must be approved by at least 75% of those members voting. Subject to the existing bylaws of a Local Council, a Special Meeting may be held in person or electronically (i.e., Zoom or Teams).
5	Depending on the Local Council's current bylaws, if the special resolution is passed it may need to be ratified by the MNA's Annual General Assembly. A special resolution will be proposed at the MNA's upcoming Annual General Assembly that would ratify any special resolution of a Local

Step	Action
	Council adopting District Council bylaws that conform with the Constitution and any applicable Otipemisiwak Métis Government law.
6	If the special resolution is passed (and ratified, if required), the Local Council must send a certified copy of the special resolution, along with a copy of the revised bylaws and objects, to the Registrar. The revised bylaws and objects do not take effect until each has been approved and registered by the Registrar.
7	The Local Council must file a notice in prescribed form with the Registrar regarding the name change.
8	If the transition to a District Council results in a change in the Local Council's officers or directors or in the name and street address/postal address of an officer or director, notice must be given to the Registrar within thirty (30) days from the date of the change.
9	An election for District Captain and additional District Councillors (as called for in the District bylaws) will be held no later than 180 days following the Local Council's transition to a District Council.

LOCAL COUNCIL TO DISTRICT COUNCIL TRANSITION OPTIONS: 2. A DISTRICT WHICH CURRENTLY HAS MORE THAN ONE LOCAL COUNCIL

Transition Process

Districts which currently have more than one existing Local Council would broadly follow the following process:



High-Level Activities

The **high-level** activities required to transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government include:

- The existing Local Councils would need to **amalgamate**, through Special Local Council Meetings. For example, if a District has three existing Local Councils within it, those Local Councils will need to meet and decide whether they want to join together.



- To allow the Local Councils to transition, each Local Council would need to choose to amalgamate and adopt shared District Council Bylaws at a Special Local Council Meeting.
 - Note that each District Council’s bylaws may vary to consider the specific circumstances and needs of the Citizens of the District. However, there are certain provisions that all District Councils will need in their bylaws.
- The amalgamated Local Council would then become an **interim District Council**. Local Councils should discuss and collaborate among themselves to determine which individuals on the various boards of directors of the existing Local Councils will continue as the interim District Captain and interim District Councillors of the new District Council resulting from the amalgamation.
- This **interim District Council** would continue until a **District-level election can be held**. This election must occur **no later than 180 days following the Local Councils’ transition to an interim District Council**. For example, if a Local Council passed its bylaws at a Special Local Council Meeting in December 2023, a District-level election for a new District Captain should be held by June 2024.

This process will apply to the **six (6) Districts** under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government with multiple existing Local Councils. In these instances, further work will be completed with the Local Councils transitioning to each District to determine the best path forward for that District.

List of Districts with More than One Local Council

Table represents a point in time and is subject to change.

Region #	Local Council Name	Local #	Future District	Interim District Name*
3	Chinook	1880	1	Foothills Métis District
	Lethbridge	2003		
	Rocky Mountain House	845	3	Red Deer Métis District
	Red Deer	492		
4	Burntwood	6	8	Lac Ste. Anne Métis District
	Gunn	55		
	Drayton Valley	888		
	Edmonton	2085	9	Fort Edmonton Métis District
	Garneau	1886		
6	Valleyview	1929	13	Grande Prairie Métis District
	Grande Prairie	1990		
	Manning	2020	14	Peace River Métis District
	Peace River	78		
	Fairview	205		

**Note: As part of establishing a District Council, each District is assigned a name that reflects the distinctive features of the land, Métis history, or contemporary Métis experience. The name of the District may be changed in accordance with Otipemisiwak Métis Government Law and in consultation with the Citizens of each District.*



Step-by-Step Activities

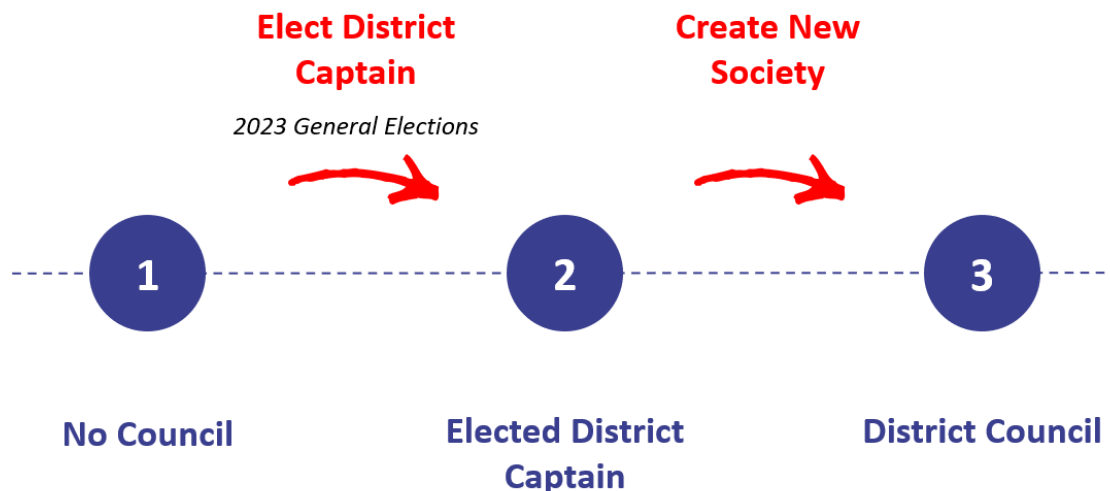
Step	Action
1	Local Councils existing in the District should discuss and collaborate among themselves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Determine whether all the Local Councils will amalgamate into one, or whether one or more Local Councils will not be included in the amalgamation. If one or more Local Councils will not be included in the amalgamation, determine how to address any assets and liabilities of such Local Council(s); and Determine which individuals comprising the various boards of directors of the existing Local Councils will continue as the interim District Captain and interim District Councillors of the new District Council resulting from the amalgamation (who will continue to serve until an election can be held no later than one hundred and eighty (180) days following the amalgamation).
2	Using Model Bylaws as a starting point, proposed bylaws of the District Council must be prepared.
3	An Alberta Newly Updated Automated Name Search (NUANS) report must be obtained in respect of the District Council's proposed name, which is to be in accordance with applicable Otipemisiwak Métis Government law. The Alberta NUANS report is required to ensure the District Council's name can be used in Alberta. The MNA can assist with obtaining this NUANS report.
4	The existing Local Councils in a District that are to be amalgamated will prepare and enter into an amalgamation agreement, which must provide (among other things): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The name of the amalgamated District Council; The objects of the amalgamated District Council, which are to conform to Model Objects; The name and address of the District Captain and each other District Councillor; and The bylaws to be adopted by the new District Council. <p>To facilitate the process, the MNA will provide a template amalgamation agreement that may be used by Local Councils.</p>
5	The bylaws and other materials will be submitted to the MNA to ensure they conform to the Constitution and any applicable Otipemisiwak Métis Government law.
6	A Special Meeting must be held by each Local Council, at which the members of each Local Council will be asked to pass a special resolution that approves the amalgamation and the amalgamation agreement. The existing bylaws of each Local Council should be reviewed to determine any specific requirements to call and hold a valid Special Meeting and pass a special resolution. Generally, notice of a Special Meeting must be provided to all members of the Local Council at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the Special Meeting. At the Special Meeting, the special resolution must be approved by at least 75% of those members voting. Subject to a Local Council's existing bylaws, a Special Meeting may be held in person or electronically (i.e., Zoom or Teams).
7	Depending on the Local Council's current bylaws, if the Special Resolution is passed it may need to be ratified by the MNA's Annual General Assembly. A special resolution will be proposed at the MNA's upcoming Annual General Assembly that would ratify any special resolution of a Local Council adopting District Council bylaws that conform with the Constitution and any applicable Otipemisiwak Métis Government law.
8	Once the MNA approves an application for amalgamation, it must be filed with the Registrar, along with a copy of (i) the special resolution of each amalgamating Local Council, (ii) the amalgamation agreement, and (iii) documents relating to the name of the District Council. In addition, a \$50 fee will be payable for a certificate of amalgamation.

Step	Action
9	Effective as of the date on the certificate of amalgamation issued by the Registrar, the amalgamating Local Councils will be amalgamated and continued as a single entity, which will be recognized as the District Council.
10	An election for District Captain and additional District Councillors (as called for in the District Bylaws) will be held no later than 180 days following the Local Council’s transition to a District Council.

LOCAL COUNCIL TO DISTRICT COUNCIL TRANSITION OPTIONS: 3. A DISTRICT WHICH CURRENTLY HAS NO LOCAL COUNCIL

Transition Process

Districts which currently have no Local Councils would broadly follow the following process:



High-Level Activities

The **high-level** activities required to transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government include:

- If a District has no existing Local Council, Citizens of that District will have the opportunity to elect a District Captain (during the General Election in September 2023) **to establish an interim District Council.**
- The person elected as District Captain must identify **five or more Citizens of the District (including themselves) to incorporate a society** under Alberta’s Societies Act to serve as the District interim District Council.
- Elections for other District Councillor positions, as provided for in the District Council Bylaws, **must be held no later than 180 days following the incorporation of the District Council.**

This process will apply to the **five (5) Districts** under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, with no existing Local Council. In these instances, further work will be completed to determine the best path forward for that District.



List of Districts with No Local Council

Table represents a point in time and is subject to change.

Region #	Local Council Name	Local #	Future District	Interim District Name*
3	N/A	N/A	4	Rocky View Métis District
3	N/A	N/A	6	Calgary Elbow Métis District
4	N/A	N/A	7	Jasper House Métis District
5	N/A	N/A	12	St. Paul-Cold Lake Métis District
1	N/A	N/A	20	Athabasca Landing Métis District
5	N/A	N/A	22	Wabasca-Desmarais Métis District

*Note: As part of establishing a District Council, each District is assigned a name that reflects the distinctive features of the land, Métis history, or contemporary Métis experience. The name of the District may be changed in accordance with Otipemisiwak Métis Government law and in consultation with the Citizens of each District.

Step-by-Step Activities

Step	Action
1	An election for District Captain will be held concurrently with the General Election in September 2023.
2	Using Model Bylaws as a starting point, the person elected as District Captain must prepare proposed District Council bylaws.
3	The person elected as District Captain must identify five or more Citizens of the District (including themselves) to incorporate a society under Alberta’s Societies Act to serve as the District Council’s legal and administrative arm.
4	An Alberta Newly Updated Automated Name Search (NUANS) report must be obtained in respect of the District Council’s proposed name, which is to be in accordance with applicable Otipemisiwak Métis Government law. The Alberta NUANS report is required to ensure the District Council’s name can be used in Alberta. The MNA can assist with obtaining this NUANS report.
5	The proposed bylaws and other incorporation materials will be submitted to the MNA to ensure they conform to the Constitution and any applicable Otipemisiwak Métis Government law.
6	The District Council will be incorporated by submitting the following to the Alberta Corporate Registrar (the Registrar): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. An application to form a Society using the prescribed form provided by the Province of Alberta (which will be made available), which will include Model Objects; b. The bylaws for the District Council; c. An incorporation fee of \$50; and d. Notices of the District Council’s address and directors.
7	Elections for other District Councillor positions, as provided for in the District Council bylaws, must be held no later than 180 days following the incorporation of the District Council.

TRANSITION PLAN – LOCAL COUNCILS: NEXT STEPS

The Transition Plan is a monumental step in allowing MNA Citizens to achieve self-governance and self-determination. However, there is still work to be done. For example, there was a General Election held in September 2023 to elect new members of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. The positions that were elected include one (1) Provincial President, one (1) Provincial Women’s Representative, one (1) Provincial Youth Representative, and twenty-two (22) Citizens’ Representatives, and five (5) District Captains for Districts that do not currently have an active Local Council. These representatives will begin forming our new government and allow us to better support our Citizens.



After the General Election was held in September, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government transitioned to a new governance body with newly elected leaders, laws, and a Transition Plan in place to guide the transition. With the newly elected representatives, the Transition Committee's membership and purpose has remained the same. The Transition Committee will further support the transition decisions, timelines, and processes developed by the new government.

As part of the transition from Local to District Councils, certain Districts elected a District Captain during the 2023 General Election. This was the case for five (5) Districts that do not currently have an active Local Council. These five (5) Districts voted for a District Captain during the General Election in September. For Districts with an existing Local Council, or more than one Local Council, the work of transition will continue after the election in September.

The Transition Committee, newly elected Citizens' Council, and MNA administration will continue to work closely with and support Local Councils that choose to transition. The work of transition is anticipated to continue for many more months and years. The progress that has been made to date, and the important work to come, has been made possible by generations of Métis Citizens. After decades of perseverance, we, the Otipemisiwak, the people who rule themselves, will have created a Métis Constitution and a Métis Government.

TRANSITION PLAN: REGIONAL COUNCILS

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, Regional Councils will not form part of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. Instead, newly formed District Councils will serve as new District level governance structures in place of both Local Councils and Regional Councils.

As Regional Councils will not have a role in the Otipemisiwak Métis Government following the implementation of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, Regional Councils are intended to be gradually reduced and ultimately dissolved. However, prior to that, all Regional Councils will be required to ensure the fair and equitable transfer of their rights, titles, interests, and assets to one or more newly formed District Councils. Any transfer of the rights, titles, interests, and assets of a Regional Council to one or more District Councils will occur in a manner that provides for ongoing local and/or regional level benefit and control, through the District Councils, of such rights, titles, interests, and assets of the Regional Council. In addition, the obligations and liabilities of a Regional Council will generally be assumed by the District Councils that have acquired the various rights, titles, interests, and assets of that Regional Council.

If a particular Regional Council has no interests or assets, and no obligations or liabilities, that Regional Council will simply be dissolved. For example, a Regional Council may own a business that is operated for the benefit of the Citizens of the Region, and the Citizens of that Region will be represented by two new District Councils following implementation of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution. The ownership and benefit of that business, along with the obligations and liabilities associated with that business, will be transferred proportionately to those two new District Councils. Following the transfer of the business (as well as any other interests and assets), the Regional Council would be dissolved and cease to exist.

The next part of the Transition Plan addresses the specific steps to be taken by (i) those Regional Councils that have assets, and (ii) those Regional Councils that have no assets or liabilities.



In all cases, the MNA will work with each Regional Council to ensure an orderly transition of the rights, titles, interests, assets, obligations and liabilities of the Regional Council to one or more District Councils in a manner that reflects the spirit and intent of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution and provides for ongoing local and/or regional level benefit and control of any such rights, titles, interests, and assets.

REGION TRANSITION OPTIONS: 1. A REGIONAL COUNCIL WITH ASSETS

High-Level Activities

The **high-level** activities required to transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government include:

- A Special Meeting will be held to amend the Regional Council’s objects and bylaws to transfer their interests, assets, and liabilities to one or more newly formed District Councils.
- The Regional Council will be dissolved and cease to exist.

Step-by-Step Activities

Step	Action
1	A Special Meeting will be held at which a Regional Council’s members will be asked to pass a special resolution that approves the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Amending the Regional Council’s existing objects to adopt new objects that will limit each Regional Council to holding any assets and interests, and carrying on any activities, for the ongoing benefit of the Citizens formerly represented by the Regional Council; and Amending the Regional Council’s existing bylaws to adopt new standard bylaws in a form prepared by the MNA, which will provide for the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Council’s board of directors will be comprised of (A) the Citizens’ Representatives that are elected to the Citizens’ Council to represent the Citizens’ who were formerly represented by the Regional Council, and (B) the District Captain for each District Council that represents the Citizens formerly represented by the Regional Council. In the event of a liquidation or dissolution of the Regional Council, all assets and interests of the Regional Council must be transferred to the District Council(s) that represent the Citizens formerly represented by the Regional Council.
2	Following the establishment of District Councils (as discussed earlier in this Transition Plan), a Regional Council will take such steps as are determined necessary by the Citizens’ Council and the Regional Council’s board of directors in order to transfer the rights, titles, interests, and assets of such Regional Council to the District Councils that represent the Citizens formerly represented by the Regional Council. This may also require the District Council to assume certain ongoing obligations and liabilities associated with those interests and assets, as determined on a case-by-case basis. The MNA will assist with this process to ensure all legal requirements concerning the transfers are satisfied.
3	Following the transfer of a Regional Council’s rights, titles, interests, and assets as set out above, and the satisfaction of any liabilities or obligations of the Regional Council, the Regional Council will file an application with the Registrar to have the Regional Council dissolved, at which time the Regional Council will cease to exist.



Where any transfer of interests and assets of any particular Regional Council to one or more District Councils is not permitted, or is determined to be impractical for any reason, steps will be taken to ensure that such interests and assets remain held and controlled for the benefit of the Citizens that were represented by the Regional Council prior to the implementation of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution.

REGION TRANSITION OPTIONS: 2. A REGIONAL COUNCIL WITH NO ASSETS OR LIABILITIES

High-Level Activities

The **high-level** activities required to transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government include:

- If no transition of interest, assets or liabilities is required, the Regional Council will be dissolved and cease to exist.

Step-by-Step Activities

Step	Action
1	For any Regional Council that has no rights, titles, interests, or assets and no obligations or liabilities, such Regional Council will file an application with the Registrar to have the Regional Council dissolved, at which time the Regional Council will cease to exist.

TRANSITION PLAN: AFFILIATES

BACKGROUND

There are a number of important MNA affiliated entities, including Métis Crossing, Rupertsland Institute, and the Métis Urban Housing Corporation. The MNA currently controls these MNA affiliated entities (either directly or through the Provincial Council), and all such affiliated entities will remain controlled by the MNA following implementation of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution. All existing MNA affiliated entities will continue in the same form and Citizens will continue to enjoy the same benefits and resources they currently enjoy with respect to these affiliated entities. Accordingly, no significant transition steps are required to be taken with respect to the MNA affiliated entities.

However, in certain instances limited amendments will be required to be made to the bylaws or other constating documents of the MNA affiliated entities in order to reflect the new structure of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. Such limited amendments could include, as an example, replacing references to the “Provincial Council” with references to the “Citizens’ Council”.

The MNA will be working directly with each MNA affiliated entity to ensure all amendments required to reflect the new structure of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government are made, and to ensure ongoing control of the MNA affiliated entities by the MNA for the benefit of Citizens.



MNA Affiliates

Affiliates
Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc.
Cree Productions (1992) Ltd.
Métis Capital Housing Corporation
Métis Urban Housing Corporation of Alberta, Inc.
Métis Nation Holdings Ltd.
Rupertsland Institute
Métis Crossing Experience Company
Métis Crossing Foundation
Métis Crossing Ltd.
Métis Crossing Solar Ltd.
Métis Crossing Ventures Ltd.

