



Citizens' Council Gallery Code of Conduct

To help maintain order and respect, visitors attending the gallery of a Citizens' Council meeting are required to adhere to the rules, procedures, and instructions detailed in this *Citizens' Council Gallery Code of Conduct* in addition to any directions which may be issued by the Chair during Council proceedings. These guidelines align with Otipemisiwak Métis Government Law and will be directed and enforced by the Chair and Administration.

We truly appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we strive to provide fair, responsible, transparent, and accountable governance for all Citizens of the Métis Nation within Alberta.

Consequences of Non-Compliance:

As stated in the *Self-Government Act*, the Chair may take the following measures to maintain order and decorum at a Council meeting:

- The Chair may order the expulsion of a visitor from a Council meeting; AND/OR
- The Chair may appoint and direct a sergeant-at-arms to enforce and maintain order at a Council meeting.

Respectful Behaviour:

To help maintain order and respect while the Citizens' Council is in session, visitors attending the gallery of a Citizens' Council meeting must refrain from actions that may disturb meeting proceedings. The following activities are not permitted:

- Engaging members of the Citizens' Council during Council proceedings in any form;
- Making loud comments, booing, using offensive language, or causing disruptions;
- Obstructing the view or activities of Citizens' Council members or Administration staff in any way, including standing anywhere in the meeting room except the assigned visitor gallery area (usually at the back or side of the room);
- Use of personal electronic devices for calls or other audible notifications; AND
- Recording of proceedings, including photography, video, or sound recording, without the prior permission of the Chair.¹

All personal electronic devices within the gallery must be muted or placed on "silent" mode (not vibrate).

¹ If you are with the media and wish to take photos, please notify the Chair at least 48 hours in advance by emailing selfgovernmentteam@metis.org with your request.

Participation:

As outlined in the *Self-Government Act*, visitors attending the gallery of a Citizens' Council meeting are not permitted to speak, ask questions, or participate in Citizens' Council proceedings unless directed to do so by the Chair.

The following conditions apply to all meetings of Citizens' Council:

- Only a Citizens' Council member or other person approved by the Chair may speak during a Council meeting;
- Only a Citizens' Council member may introduce a motion in a Council meeting;
- The right of a Citizens' Council member to participate in Council meetings may not be delegated to a visitor or any other person;
- Visitors must refrain from engaging in conversations or otherwise disrupting Members of the Citizens' Council during the proceedings; AND
- Gallery attendance is limited to the number of seats available in the gallery of the Citizens' Council meeting room for safety. If seating capacity limits are reached, visitors may be denied entry.

In-Camera Session(s):

As stated in the *Self-Government Act*, the Citizens' Council may exclude any persons except for the Chair and Citizens' Council members from a part of a Council meeting declared to be confidential ("in-camera").

- During in-camera sessions (confidential sessions closed to visitors), all visitors must vacate the meeting room. The Chair will provide instructions on when to leave and when it is permissible to return.
- Any visitors given permission to attend any part of a meeting declared to be confidential ("in-camera") are held to the same standard of confidentiality as the Citizens' Council.

Prohibited Items:

For safety and security reasons, certain items may be prohibited within the visitor gallery area. Please comply with any restrictions or guidelines provided by the Chair, Administration staff, or security personnel.

- The use of posters, signs, banners, or other similar forms of messaging is prohibited.
- There is no alcohol permitted at Citizens' Council meetings.
- No weapons or other items deemed dangerous to the public shall be permitted in the Citizens' Council meeting room.