



ADOPTED 2024 ANNUAL CITIZENS' GATHERING MEETING MINUTES

DATE:	August 16, 2024
LOCATION:	Edmonton Expo Centre 7515 118 Ave NW, Edmonton AB T5B 0J2
ROOM:	HALL F

Establish Quorum

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

Opening Prayer

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

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

10:06 AM The Chair called the 2024 Annual Citizens' Gathering to order and appointed the Sergeant-at-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 Kaila Mitchell and Honorable Dan Williams, Government of Alberta 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 Grauman

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

1:04 PM Health & Seniors – 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 on behalf of Secretary Lisa Wolfe & Manager Mike Parks

3:58 PM Education & Training – Rupertsland Institute – Secretary Shannon Dunfield on behalf of Secretary Lisa Wolfe & Chief Executive Officer, Tavia Laliberte



4:11 PM Education & Training – Métis Education Foundation – Secretary Shannon Dunfield on behalf of Secretary Lisa Wolfe & 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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DATE:	August 17, 2024
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ROOM:	HALL F

Establish Quorum

9:15 AM Secretary of Citizenship & 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 95th 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: Metis Settlements – President Sandmaier created a portfolio specifically to address the Metis Settlement and First Nation relations.

9:44AM **MOTION #20240817-1:**

Moved by: Audrey Poitras

The minutes of the 95th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association, 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 C-53, 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. Frank 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 Métis 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 Lavallee & Director Melissa Tipler
- 2:23 PM Métis Urban Housing / Métis Capital Housing – Secretary Valerie 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 that are integrated into the departments of 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 that a 2SLGBTQ+ Provincial Secretary be appointed and entrusted with a mandate regarding 2SLGBTQ+ issues to deal with the concerns and perspectives unique to two-spirit people.

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 that there be an Elder, youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ (two-spirit), and women position on committees and advisory councils where reasonable.

Seconded by: Suzanne 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 Cree/Michif language immersion programs and possible partnerships with educational institutions.

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 to do needs assessments on the topics of health, seniors, mental health, and addictions in each district.

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 having District Councils and District Captains complete and present either verbal or written annual reports on the activities and best practices of the District Councils.

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 date that the people of Jasper were allowed to return to their homes after the July 2024 wildfires, whereas historically Métis people were not allowed to return to their land or hunt in what became Jasper national park.

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 that youth programming be 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 consider that there be more cultural programming aimed towards adults.

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 consider allowing each Citizen to identify which District they want to be registered in based on their historical ties, as opposed to where they currently reside, with registry including the right to vote.

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.

"4(2) If a Citizen is ordinarily resident in a District for at least 90 days before the close of voting, they are entitled to:

(a) have their name included on the list of voters for the District in which they are ordinarily resident; and

(b) vote in an election for the office of President, Women's Representative, Youth Representative, and the Citizen Representative for their District, or in a referendum.

(3) If a Citizen is not ordinarily resident in a District, they are entitled to:

(a) have their name included on the list of voters; and

(b) vote in an election for the office of President, Women's Representative, and Youth Representative, or in a referendum."

(Elections and Referenda Act, 2023)

Result: Ruled Out of Order

5:27PM

PROPOSAL #12

MOTION #20240817-13:

Moved by: Chantelle Trudel

That the Citizens' Council consider strengthening communication between Citizens' Representatives, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, the 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 available to Citizens who would ordinarily be eligible for citizenship with the Métis Nation of Alberta but cannot currently 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.

"4(2) A person's eligibility for citizenship in the Métis Nation within Alberta is independent of their place of residence." (Citizenship Act, 2023)

Result: Deemed Unnecessary - Withdrawn

5:31PM

PROPOSAL #14

MOTION #20240817-13:

Moved by: Barb Tatum

That the Citizens' Council consider having a piece of land for the Nation for communal gardening.

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.