



<b>DRAFT 2025 ANNUAL CITIZENS' GATHERING MEETING MINUTES</b>	
<b>DATE:</b>	August 22, 2025
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Métis Crossing 17339 Victoria Trail, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0
<b>ROOM:</b>	Cultural Gathering Centre

### Opening Prayer

9:29 AM Knowledge Keeper Norma Spicer delivered the opening prayer.

### Opening Remarks

- 9:37 AM Senior Executive Officer, Aaron Barner invited Dignitaries to share their opening remarks.
- 9:37 AM Andrea Sandmaier, President of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government delivered opening remarks.
- 9:48 AM Victoria Pruden, President of the Métis National Council, delivered opening remarks.
- 9:53 AM Mitch Case, Secretary of the Métis Nation of Ontario, delivered opening remarks.
- 10:02 AM Amy Cherniwchan, Mayor of Smoky Lake, delivered opening remarks.
- 10:05 AM Jered Serben, Reeve of Smoky Lake County, delivered opening remarks.
- 10:21 AM Video played of Minister Rebecca Alty delivering opening remarks.
- 10:23 AM Video played of Minister Rajan Sawhney delivering opening remarks.
- 10:29 AM Senior Executive Officer, Aaron Barner welcomed the Chair, Garrett Tomlinson to share opening remarks.
- 10:36 AM The Chair, Garrett Tomlinson introduced Maren Jensen-Joyce and Tyler Fetch as the chair designates for the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering.
- 10:38 AM The Chair introduced Cst. Derrick Campbell and Cst. Jeff Campbell as the Sergeant-at-Arms for the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering.

### Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

- 10:45 AM The Chair called the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering to order and appointed the Sergeants-at-Arms as Cst. Derrick Campbell and Cst. Jeff Campbell.



### Agenda Item #2 – Adoption of Agenda

- 10:45 AM     **MOTION #20250822-1:**  
**Moved by:** Dean Olson  
Be it resolved that the agenda for the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering be adopted as presented.  
**Seconded by:** Lorne Ladouceur
- No Debate*
- Result:** Carried by Consensus

### Agenda Item – Establish Quorum

- 10:46 AM     The Chair invited Joe Chodzicki, Secretary of Citizenship & Registry, to report on the registered Citizens in attendance at Day 1 of the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering. It was recorded that as of 10:20AM, there were 281 registered Citizens in attendance.

### Agenda Item #3 – Adoption of 2024 Citizens' Gathering Minutes

- 10:47 AM     **MOTION #20250822-2:**  
**Moved by:** Dean Olson  
Be it resolved that the minutes of the 2024 Annual Citizens' Gathering of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, be approved as presented.  
**Seconded by:** Carol Ridsdale
- No Debate*
- Result:** Carried by Consensus

### Agenda Item #4 – Government Reports

- 10:48 AM     The Chair introduced the Government Reports section of the Citizens' Gathering. During this period, each Otipemisiwak Métis Government Provincial Secretary, along with the department or institution director or manager, had the opportunity to report on their activities and achievements over the 2024/25 fiscal year, as information, to Citizens.
- Citizens were provided with an opportunity to ask questions following each report.



### Consultation

10:49 AM The Chair invited President Andrea Sandmaier, portfolio holder of Métis Rights & Consultation and Theo Peters, Director of Consultation, to deliver the Consultation Report.

President Andrea Sandmaier and Theo Peters delivered the Consultation report.

10:04 AM *Questions from Citizens*

### Intergovernmental Relations

11:15 AM The Chair invited President Andrea Sandmaier, portfolio holder of Intergovernmental Relations and Tyler Fetch, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, to deliver the Intergovernmental Relations Report.

11:28 AM *Questions from Citizens*

### Youth, Sport, & Gender Equity

11:31 AM The Chair invited Rebecca Lavallee, Secretary for Youth, Sport, & Gender Equity, and Melissa Tipler, Director of Youth Programs and Services to deliver the Youth Programs and Services report.

11:41 AM *No questions from Citizens.*

### Justice

11:42 AM The Chair invited Nelson Lussier, Secretary of Justice, and Sharon Bourque, Director of Justice, to deliver the Justice Report.

12:06 PM *Questions from Citizens.*

### Lunch Break

12:14 PM The Chair declared the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering to be in recess for lunch.

12:15 PM The Chair invited Knowledge Keeper Norma Spicer to deliver the blessing of the meal.

1:21 PM The Chair recalled the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering back to order.



### Metis Settlement & First Nation Relations

- 1:21 PM The Chair invited Karen Collins, Secretary of Metis Settlement & First Nation Relations & Language Revitalization and Wyatt Cardinal, Manager of Intergovernmental Relations to deliver the Metis Settlement and First Nation Relations Report.
- 1:39 PM *No questions from Citizens.*

### Language Revitalization

- 1:40 PM The Chair invited Karen Collins, Secretary of Metis Settlement and First Nation Relations and Language Revitalization and Mike Parks, Manager of Michif Language, to deliver the Language Revitalization Report.
- 1:58 PM *Questions from Citizens.*

### Health, Wellbeing, & Seniors

- 2:08 PM The Chair invited Kaila Mitchell, Secretary of Health, Wellbeing, & Seniors, and Dr. Brian Jackson, Associate Director of Recovery Initiatives, to deliver the Health report.
- 2:22 PM *Questions from Citizens.*

### Children & Family Services

- 2:38 PM The Chair invited Brooke Bramfield, Secretary of Children & Family Services and Kelsey Bradburn, Director of Children & Family Services, to deliver the Children and Family Services report.
- 2:53 PM *Questions from Citizens.*

### Break

- 2:55 PM The Chair declared the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering to be in recess.
- 3:06 PM The Chair recalled the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering back to order.

### Tourism, Métis Crossing

- 3:06 PM The Chair invited President Andrea Sandmaier, portfolio holder of Tourism, and Juanita Marois, Chief Executive Officer of Métis Crossing, to deliver the Métis Crossing report.
- 3:22 PM *No questions from Citizens.*



### Economic & Rural Development

3:22 PM The Chair invited Barry Dibb, Secretary of Economic & Rural Development and Tyler Fetch, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, to deliver the Economic & Rural Development report.

### Apeetogosan

3:34 PM The Chair invited President Andrea Sandmaier, board member of Apeetogosan, and Carol Sales, Chief Executive Officer of Apeetogosan, to deliver the Apeetogosan Report.

3:51 PM *Questions from Citizens.*

### Citizenship & Registry

3:59 PM The Chair invited Joe Chodzicki, Secretary of Citizenship & Registry, and Shawn McKay, Director of Métis Identification and Registry Systems to deliver the Citizenship & Registry report.

4:14 PM *Questions from Citizens.*

### Environment, Climate Change, & Emergency Management

4:18 PM The Chair invited Aura Leddy, Secretary of Environment, Climate Change, & Emergency Management, and Andres Filella, Director of Environment and Climate Change, to deliver the Environment, Climate Change, & Emergency Management report.

4:31 PM *No questions from Citizens.*

### Rupertsland Institute

4:32 PM The Chair invited Lisa Wolfe, Secretary of Education, Training, & Veterans Affairs, and Sharon Sawchuk, Director of Operations for Rupertsland Institute, to deliver the Education & Training, Rupertsland Institute Report.

4:47 PM *No questions from Citizens.*

### Métis Education Foundation

4:47 PM The Chair invited President Andrea Sandmaier, Chair of the Métis Education Foundation, and Lisa Savill, Executive Director of the Métis Education Foundation, to deliver the Métis Education Foundation report.

4:57 PM *Questions from Citizens.*



**Métis Education Foundation**

- 4:59 PM      The Chair invited Lisa Wolfe, Secretary of Education, Training, & Veterans Affairs to deliver the Veterans Affairs report.
- 5:11 PM      *Questions from Citizens*

**Agenda Item #5 – Closing Remarks**

- 5:14 PM      President Andrea Sandmaier to delivered her closing remarks.

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

- 5:16 PM      The Chair declared that the meeting of the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering be in recess until 9:00 AM, Saturday August 23, 2025.





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<b>DATE:</b>	August 23, 2025
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<b>ROOM:</b>	Cultural Gathering Centre

**Establish Quorum**

9:20 AM The Chair invited Joe Chodzicki, Secretary of Citizenship & Registry, to report on the registered Citizens in attendance at Day 2 of the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering. It was recorded that as of 9:15am, there were 200 registered Citizens in attendance.

**Agenda Item #7 - Recall to Order**

9:20 AM The Chair recalled the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering to order.

**Agenda Item #8 - Opening Prayer**

9:20 AM Knowledge Keeper Norma Spicer delivered the opening prayer.

**Agenda Item #4 - Government Reports Continued**

**Records of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government**

9:22 AM The Chair invited Sarah Wolfe, Secretary of Records to deliver the report on the records of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government including the minutes of the 2024 Annual Citizens' Gathering of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

*No questions from Citizens.*

**President's Report**

9:28 AM The Chair invited President Andrea Sandmaier to deliver the President's report.

*No questions from Citizens.*

**Ombudsman Report**

9:41 AM The Chair invited Philip Werth, Ombudsman of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to deliver the Ombudsman's report.

9:55 AM *Questions from Citizens.*



### Judicial Branch Report

9:57 AM The Chair invited Lionel Chartrand, Judicial Tribunal Chairperson, and Judicial Tribunal members, Corinne Willier, John Phillips, and Janis Cunningham, to deliver the Judicial Branch report.

*No questions from Citizens.*

### Harvesting & Culture

10:09 AM The Chair invited Grant Lacombe, Secretary of Harvesting & Culture, and Craig Letendre, Harvesting Manager to deliver the Harvesting & Culture report.

10:37 AM *Questions from Citizens.*

### Chief Electoral Officer's Report

11:38 AM The Chair invited Del Graff, Chief Electoral Officer, to deliver the report on 2024-25 By-Elections.

11:58 AM *Questions from Citizens.*

### Lunch

12:05 PM The Chair declared the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering to be in recess.

12:05 PM The Chair invited Knowledge Keeper Norma Spicer to deliver the blessing of the meal.

1:09 PM The Chair recalled the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering back to order.

### Citizens' Council

1:09 PM The Chair invited President Andrea Sandmaier to deliver the Citizens' Council report.

1:17 PM *Questions from Citizens.*

### Self-Government

1:20 PM *Chair Garrett Tomlinson relinquished control of the meeting to Chair Designate Tyler Fetch.*

1:20 PM The Chair Designate invited President Andrea Sandmaier, portfolio holder of Self-Government, Métis Rights, and Consultation, and Garrett Tomlinson, Senior





Director of Self-Government, and Nicole Shepherd, Transition Manager to deliver the Self-Government report.

1:40 PM *Questions from Citizens.*

2:01 PM *Chair Designate Tyler Fetch relinquished control of the meeting back to Chair Garrett Tomlinson.*

#### **Métis Urban Housing, Métis Capital Housing**

2:01 PM The Chair invited Valerie Quintal, Secretary of Housing & Infrastructure and Aaron Barner, Senior Executive Officer, to deliver the Métis Urban Housing, Métis Capital Housing reports.

#### **Métis Nation Holdings**

2:17 PM The Chair invited Valerie Quintal, Secretary of Housing and Infrastructure, and Aaron Barner, Senior Executive Officer, to deliver Métis Nation Holdings report.

2:24 PM *Questions from Citizens.*

#### **Break**

3:04 PM The Chair declared the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering to be in recess.

3:18 PM The Chair recalled the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering back to order.

#### **Annual Audited Financial Statements of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government**

##### **Treasurer, Auditor General**

3:18 PM The Chair invited Sarah Wolfe, Secretary of Records, Ruben Jeffery, Auditor General, Ryan Fleming, Director of Finance, and Aaron Barner, Senior Executive Officer, to deliver the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year Audited Financial Statements.

The Chair invited Secretary Sarah Wolfe to present the Treasury report on behalf of Secretary Jason Ekeburg and invited Auditor General Ruben Jeffery to present the Annual Audited Financial Statements of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

3:19 PM **Point of Order:** *Chair asked Gathering to come to order.*

3:21 PM Auditor General Jeffery delivered his report.

3:31 PM *Questions from Citizens.*

#### **Agenda Item #9 – Report on 2024 Citizens' Proposals**

3:51 PM President Andrea Sandmaier presented the report on actions taken concerning the 2024 Citizens' Proposals.



- 4:01 PM The Chair declared the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering to be in recess.
- 4:17 PM The Chair recalled the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering back to order.
- 4:18 PM The Chair advised that there were two documents submitted for special resolutions this year, one was withdrawn to be submitted as a proposal, and one did not meet the criteria as it did not amend the bylaw.

**Agenda Item #10 – Citizens' Proposals**

- 4:20 PM **PROPOSAL #1**  
**MOTION #20250823-01:**  
**Moved by:** Esther Auger  
That the Citizens' Council consider establishing guidelines for proper Métis protocol to be drafted and used within the Otipemisiwak Métis Government office and all Otipemisiwak Métis Government employees including affiliates to undertake training and use it in practice when consulting with Métis Knowledge Keepers, cultural leaders, and Elders, so they may learn how to properly address and treat our esteemed Citizens.  
**Seconded by:** Barb Emmerich

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

- 4:27 PM **PROPOSAL #2**  
**MOTION #20250823-02:**  
**Moved by:** Troy Stooke  
That the Citizens' Council consider directing resources regarding funding or communication that's needed to ensure that the monument's expansion is completed by November 1, 2026, in order that veterans, first responders, and families can celebrate this effort on Indigenous Veterans' Day on November 8, 2026.  
**Seconded by:** Karen Wilson

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus



4:31 PM

**PROPOSAL #3**

**MOTION #20250823-03:**

**Moved by:** Jocelyn Lamothe

That the Citizens' Council consider building a diverse inventory of Metis art and promote the art and artists through the kisihtoskatonaw Otipemisiwak Métis Government Artists collective.

**Seconded by:** Suzanne Cunningham

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

4:34 PM

**PROPOSAL #4**

**MOTION #20250823-04:**

**Moved by:** Norman Wanotch

That the Citizens' Council consider implementing legislative and policy requirements that would ensure that Métis Citizens are prioritized, supported, and given preference for employment, leadership, and decision-making roles within our government and in its Institutions wherever possible.

**Seconded by:** Joseph René de Meulles

***Ruling of the Chair:***

*Upon review and advice from administration, the proposal is deemed accepted.*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

4:42 PM

**PROPOSAL #5**

**MOTION #20250823-05:**

**Moved by:** Cameron (Aaliya) Bouvier

That the Citizens' Council consider to create a specific Two-spirit representative role in our Métis government.

**Seconded by:** Giorgianna Leddy, District 10

***Ruling of the Chair:***

*Upon review and advice from administration, the proposal is deemed accepted.*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus



4:47 PM

**PROPOSAL #6**

**MOTION #20250823-06:**

**Moved by:** Ben Howse

That Citizens' Council consider and begin the necessary work to take the draft of the Métis Nation of Alberta Fish and Wildlife and Resource Management Act, and further, begin the process to enact this as legislation.

**Seconded by:** Cindy Ladouceur

***Ruling of the Chair:***

*Upon review and advice from administration, the proposal was reviewed with the seconder, amended and split into two proposals, and is deemed accepted.*

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

4:51 PM

**PROPOSAL #7**

**MOTION #20250823-07:**

**Moved by:** Ben Howse

That Citizens' Council consider the work to begin to put a harvester's council back in our agreement.

**Seconded by:** Cindy Ladouceur

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

4:53 PM

**PROPOSAL #8**

**MOTION #20250823-08:**

**Moved by:** Barbara Emmerich

That the Citizens' Council consider: ensuring that all future ACGs are hosted in venues with indoor meeting spaces that can safely accommodate up to 1000 citizens and ensure that accommodations for citizens that are attending be available within a closer radius to the meeting venue.

**Seconded by:** Shane Combs

4:55 PM

***Ruling of the Chair:***

*The motion was postponed temporarily to allow the mover to consult on proper phrasing.*



4:56 PM

**PROPOSAL #9**

**MOTION #20250823-09:**

**Moved by:** Bryan Fayant

That the Citizens' Council consider: revisiting the selection of the chairperson who will then be selected from the Citizens' Council and/or a Métis citizen at large.

**Seconded by:** Allen Boucher

4:58 PM

*Chair Garrett Tomlinson relinquished control of the meeting to Chair Designate Fetch, given the substance of the proposal.*

5:02 PM

**Point of Order** raised by Audrey Poitras.

5:04 PM

*The motion was postponed temporarily to allow the mover to consult on proper phrasing, Chair Designate Tyler Fetch relinquished control of the meeting back to Chair Garrett Tomlinson.*

5:04 PM

*Proposal #8 recalled and spoken to with new phrasing:*

**PROPOSAL #8**

**MOTION #20250823-08:**

**Moved by:** Barbara Emmerich

That the Citizens' Council consider amending the *Self-Government Act* to remove the requirement that the Annual Citizens' Gathering be held at Métis Crossing every second year.

**Seconded by:** Shane Combs

*Debate from the floor*

**Result:** Withdrawn at 5:39 PM

5:40 PM

**PROPOSAL #10**

**MOTION #20250823-10:**

**Moved by:** Cameron Bouvier

That the Citizens' Council consider establishing and implementing a process to publicly share Citizen Council's voting records on all motions.

**Seconded by:** Bailey Oster

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus





5:43 PM

**PROPOSAL #11**

**MOTION #20250823-11:**

**Moved by:** Shane Combs

That the Citizens' Council consider that prior to engaging with any program, event, consultation or services within a district that the respective departments of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government or Métis Nation of Alberta or its affiliates establish a clear communication and work in partnership with the districts to deliver the programs, events, consultation or services by way of written and mandate the protocol that it utilizes with each department.

**Seconded by:** Barb Emmerich

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

5:45 PM

**PROPOSAL #12**

**MOTION #20250823-12:**

**Moved by:** Wayne Kosik

That the Citizens' Council consider that we reimburse people coming to Métis Crossing, and that we make it better, bigger, and more accessible to more Métis people.

**Seconded by:** Allen Boucher

5:49 PM

**Ruling of the Chair:**

*The motion was postponed temporarily to allow the mover to consult on proper phrasing.*

5:50 PM

**PROPOSAL #13**

**MOTION #20250823-13:**

**Moved by:** Grant Britton

That Citizens' Council consider creating a commission to identify amendments to the Métis Constitution ahead of the three-year deadline that we have to fine-tune the elements that need to be addressed and reinforce and strengthen our Constitution.

**Seconded by:** Rhonda Baglot

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus





5:55 PM

**PROPOSAL #14**

**MOTION #20250823-14:**

**Moved by:** Audrey Poitras

That Citizens' Council and the Métis Crossing Board to look at all options to deal with hosting the next Citizens' Gathering here in 2027 with options for all the concerns brought forward by the Citizens at this Gathering.

**Seconded by:** Trevor Ward

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

5:57 PM

*Proposal #9 recalled and spoken to with new phrasing:*

*Chair Garrett Tomlinson relinquished control of the meeting to Chair Designate Fetch.*

**PROPOSAL #9**

**MOTION #20250823-09:**

**Moved by:** Bryan Fayant

That the Citizens' Council consider amending the *Self-Government Act* to remove the provision of allowing Otipemisiwak Métis Government employees to be appointed as Chair.

**Seconded by:** Allen Boucher

*Debate from the floor.*

**Result:** The motion was defeated 6:32 PM

6:33 PM

*Chair Designate Tyler Fetch relinquished control of the meeting back to Chair Garrett Tomlinson.*



6:33 PM *Proposal #12 recalled and spoken to with new phrasing:*

**PROPOSAL #12**

**MOTION #20250823-12:**

**Moved by:** Wayne Kosik

That the Citizens' Council consider preparing a more comprehensive financial support strategy that includes a subsidization program that considers travel distance to help more Citizens travel to the Métis Crossing to attend the Annual General Meeting.

**Seconded by:** Allen Boucher

*No Debate*

**Result:** Carried by Consensus

**Agenda Item #11 – President's Closing Remarks**

6:37 PM President Andrea Sandmaier shared closing remarks.

**Agenda Item #12 - Closing Prayer**

6:45 PM Knowledge Keeper Norma Spicer delivered the closing Prayer.

**Agenda Item #13– Adjournment**

6:46 PM **MOTION #20250823-15:**

**Moved by:** Audrey Poitras

Being no further business properly on the Agenda, and Adjournment having been moved from the floor, the Chair declared the 2025 Annual Citizens' Gathering of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to stand adjourned until further notice.