



Citizens' Council Meeting - February 19, 2026

Unofficial Transcript

[Chair]

I'm going to go ahead and call this Council meeting to order and I will invite Secretary Lisa Wolfe to open the meeting with a blessing.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]

Thank you, Mr. Chair. And for everyone here, please pray in your own way, to your Creator, that blesses your heart and moves you forward every day.

Dear Father, I thank you for this day and I acknowledge that you are our Creator and we invite you into our place today, into this Council.

We thank you for your grace and mercy for us at this table, help us to treat each other with the same heart and mindset as you have blessed us with. Please bless our staff and administration who support us and our secretaries. In our roles and portfolios. Bless our leadership as they navigate in many of the opportunities for growth for the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and our people here in Alberta. We ask for your wisdom, your knowledge, and your understanding with discernment today and every day this week. Maarsi, hai hai.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Wolfe. That was lovely.

[Representative Shannon Dunfield]

Mr. Chair, can you hear us?

Because we can't hear you. We didn't hear the prayer.

[Chair]

I'm looking at AV to correct it. Can you hear us now?

[Representative Dunfield]

We can't hear you, Mr. Chair.

[Chair]

We will pause and give AV a moment to get that sorted, Council will stand in recess.

[Representative Bobbi Paul-Alook]

It's very, very faint. I can very lightly hear you.

[Representative Dunfield]

I can't hear a word.

[Chair]

Okay, AV is telling me to keep talking so we can sort this out. Okay, can you hear me now? No. Now?

[Representative Paul-Alook]

I could only hear you, Mr. Chair, when I had my headset on. But through my computer speakers, it's too quiet to actually make out what you're saying. And I can barely hear you in my headset.

[Chair]

Okay, I'm going to keep talking and hopefully AV can figure out what the problem is.

How about now? Still nothing?

[Representative Dunfield]

It's still quite low.

[Chair]

Okay. They're still working on it. There's people sitting under their desks now.

That's a good sign. How about now? Anything?

[Representative Dunfield]

It's still quite low on my end. I can hear you, but it's not very loud.

[Chair]

Okay. They're still working on it, apparently.

[Representative Dunfield]

Okay. Thank you.

[Chair]

Okay. We're going to recess, Council, for five minutes while AV figures out what's happening. We will come back at 10 to 10.

[Representative Shannon Dunfield]

Thank you.

[Chair]

Okay. I take it online. The sound is better.

If I could just get a quick confirmation one more time.

[Representative Paul-Alook]

I can hear you well.

[Chair]
Lovely.

[Representative Dunfield]
Yeah.
Same.

[Secretary Valerie Quintal]
I can hear. Val.

[Chair]
Perfect. Okay.

Council, there is a draft agenda before you. Is there a motion for adoption of the agenda? Secretary Leddy, is there a seconder?

Secretary Mitchell? Discussion, additions, deletions? Seeing none.

Is there any opposition to the adoption of the agenda? Seeing none.

Motion carries. The agenda is so adopted, which takes us to the president's welcome. The floor is yours, Madam President.

[President Sandmaier]
Good morning, everybody. Thank you all for being here on this extremely cold day. And for those that are online, thank you for joining us virtually.

I would like to begin by thanking Secretary Lisa Wolfe for opening us in prayer today. Elder Norma was unable to be here today, but we wish her well and make sure that she has lots of prayers and that she's safe at home. Before we begin today, I want to take a moment to acknowledge profound losses for our nation that we've experienced over the last two months with the passing of respected matriarchs and leaders, District Captain Amber Boyd, Elder Angie Crerar, and Doreen Poitras-Hayes.

Each of these women gave so much to our communities, and their leadership, their strength, and their dedication have left lasting impacts on our nation and on the generations who follow. I would also like to acknowledge the extreme tragedy that Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia experienced. It's hard to believe when you wake up in the morning and you see something like that has happened in our country, in Canada.

So I would ask that we come together now for a moment of silence to honour the lives of our matriarchs and the lives that have been lost in Tumbler Ridge and for the people of Tumbler Ridge. If we could have a minute of silence, thank you. Thank you, everybody.

I want to welcome all Citizens who are here today in person. Thank you all for joining us and coming out in the cold today. Thank you so much.

And for all of those Citizens that are online, I thank you so much for coming, and I'm so happy that we have finally been able to work out all of the kinks and the regulation for online participation in our council meetings. So I'm very excited about today, and I thank you all for coming. It is important that our Citizens are engaged and are listening to what we're doing and seeing the work that we're doing around this table.

It is an important milestone for our government. It is our first Citizens' Council meeting that's being livestreamed. It's very exciting.

This exciting step forward is strengthening transparency, accessibility, and connection with our nation., and I want to recognize and thank Secretary Sarah Wolfe, our Provincial Secretary of Records, for her leadership in developing the regulation that made this all possible. So thank you very much.

It's been a busy two months since our last Citizens' Council meeting in December, and over the past several weeks, our elected officials, including district councils, have been actively engaged in important work and discussions on important topics like consultation. Overall, our work has been steady and focused. We are continuing to build our government, strengthening our structures, and moving our nation forward in a thoughtful and responsible way.

As part of that work, I would like to share a few recent highlights. Earlier in January, I met with Edmonton Mayor Andrew Knack. While he has attended many of our community events since he's been elected, which we truly appreciate, this was our first formal meeting under our Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Edmonton.

It was a productive conversation and an important step in strengthening our relationship. We were also pleased to host Alberta's Minister of Tourism and Sport at Métis Crossing, highlighting how important the site is to our nation. He was very excited to be there, and he actually did a video.

He had a video crew out there and did a video right at Métis Crossing. I also had the opportunity to spend some time with the Jasper House District for a day of ice fishing and being outside and on the land, on a very, very icy lake. It was an amazing day, and it was an important reminder of the importance of staying connected to our culture.

The ladies learned many things, how to set a net using our prairie jigger, different methods of filleting fish. It was an all-around great day, and I just want to thank our harvesting manager, who actually is here today, Craig Letendre, for bringing that session out to Jasper House. We were actually supposed to have it last year, and we had to cancel because of extreme weather.

But we were able to get out there this year, and it was a lot of fun. It was, for me, a happy place, being on the lake, being outside, and fishing. Earlier this week, I spoke at the International Indigenous Tourism Conference, where I highlighted the work of our nation, leading in tourism and economic development.

I, of course, spoke a lot about Métis Crossing and the success there. Alongside Secretary Mitchell, we met with Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, Rick Wilson, at the Alberta Legislature this week. We discussed the progress at Healing Waters, the incredible results already at New Beginnings, and the work of our health department in what they're doing to support our Citizens in recovery.

The minister reiterated the importance of our partnership and how impressed his office was with the work we are doing at New Beginnings. It was a very positive meeting. Looking ahead next week, I will be in Ottawa for a Métis National Council Board of Governors meeting and the Métis National Council Health Forum, and the unboxing of historic artifacts, historic objects, ancestral objects is actually what we're supposed to call them, I believe, from the Vatican.

So that will be a very interesting event and a good week in Ottawa. I'm also working to arrange meetings with members of the federal INAN committee regarding the MMF Treaty implementation legislation. Our administration has also been advancing several important initiatives, including preliminary planning for a Métis Rights Conference, a summer tour to celebrate our culture and history, and expanded efforts to share and strengthen the stories of the Métis Nation within Alberta.

There is a great deal of important work underway and even more ahead for all of us, and I'm encouraged by the progress that we're making together. With that, I look forward to moving into today's agenda. We have a full schedule and limited time, so I will turn it back to the Chair to move us forward.

[Chair]

Thank you, Madam President. That takes us to the next order of business, which are your minutes from the Citizens' Council meeting on December 10, 2025, which I believe were circulated in advance. Secretary of Records, will you move your minutes?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

Yes, thank you.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Wolfe. Is there a seconder for the minutes? Secretary Leddy?

Any discussion to the minutes?

[Representative Bobbi Paul-Alook]

I do have a correction for the minutes.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook?

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Yes. So I have a correction for, sorry, on page 12, 4:45 p.m., question of order. So I just wanted to request a clarification, or sorry, a correction here.

The question that is captured in the minutes isn't actually the question that was asked, and I'd just like it to be accurately reflected in the minutes, that the question was, what aspects of operation will be included in the regulation? That was the question that was asked. And then a second piece to that, I guess, is kind of a respectful request for clarification on why that question would have been ruled out of order, since the motion that was before us at the time directed administration to develop a regulation, and it included the term operation, which is kind of a broad and substantive term.

Asking what operational aspects would have been included is and was directly relevant to the scope of the motion, and under established precedent and Robert's Rules of Order, both of which we've been using in the absence of our own adopted Rules of Order, or sorry, Rules of Procedure, Citizens' Representatives are entitled to seek clarification necessary to make an informed decision. That request for information by that standard is, would be then in order. And also from the briefing note that we were presented at the time that accompanied that motion, it says that a draft regulation had already been initiated and that it was based on informal workshop decisions that were made by Council in those three workshops.

That means that an operational element wasn't... they weren't hypothetical. They were already being contemplated. So the question wasn't premature or speculative.

It was directly connected to work that was already underway. And then finally, I guess the last reason that I'm looking for clarification is that the question itself was framed as a clarification question, not debate. It wasn't arguing for or against the motion.

It just simply sought to understand what we were being asked to authorize. So if I could get just some clarification, I guess, as to why the actual question, not the question that's in the minutes, because that doesn't accurately depict what was asked, but why the question, what aspects of operation will be included in the regulation, why that is out of order.

[Chair]

Okay. So for the time being, we have a motion on the floor to approve the minutes. You've requested a correction to the minutes, which from my understanding would change the language on page 12 at 4:45 p.m. to "Representative Paul-Alook requested information regarding what aspects of the operation of the council would be part of the regulation". Is that a correct adjustment to the language from your view?

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Yes. My question was specifically what aspects of operation will be included in the regulation.

[Chair]

Okay. Madam Secretary, is there any issue with making that adjustment to the minutes from your perspective?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

No, we can make that change.

[Chair]

Very good. Madam Clerk, have you recorded that? Okay.

Madam Secretary, would you be willing to adjust your motion to accept the minutes as amended then?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

Yes.

[Chair]

Very good. Secunder?

[Secretary Aura Leddy]

Yes.

[Chair]

Very good. Is there any other corrections or adjustments to the minutes to be discussed at this time? Representative Paul-Alook, do you have further corrections or adjustments to the language or text of the minutes?

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Just the request for clarification if the Chair ruling still applies since the question actually wasn't accurately recorded in the minutes, if that ruling still applies to the actual question that was asked.

[Chair]

Yes, the ruling still applies. Any other discussion to the minutes? Seeing none, is there any opposition to the motion to accept the minutes as amended?

Representative Paul-Alook, your hand is still up. Is that in opposition?

Okay.

Seeing no opposition, the motion carries. The minutes are adopted as amended. With respect to your questions around the substance of the order, I will take that back and bring you a detailed response, Representative Paul-Alook.

You'll have to give me some time to go through the acts and review the record, and I'll get you the answer on your request for clarification. That takes us to item number six, the Chair's report, which contains the updates on actions from Citizens' Council, as well as the status of the agenda requests, which have been received by the Office of the Chair up to this point. It was circulated in advance.

Are there any questions to the chair's report? Secretary Dunfield.

[Representative Shannon Dunfield]
Representative Dunfield, Mr. Chair.

[Chair]
Sorry, Representative Dunfield, thank you.

[Representative Dunfield]
No problem. It's more of a request, Mr. Chair, for the March meeting, if possible, if we may have Citizens' Council meeting dates beyond June. So if we can have the July to December ones presented to us, that would be wonderful.

[Chair]
Already in the works, so you will have them at your next meeting and likely in advance.

[Representative Dunfield]
Okay, and then the next question is, the ETA for the parliamentary training and the Citizens' Council Rules of Procedure, I see that there's potential dates for, not potential dates, but ETA for March 2026 and April 2026. Do we have any firm dates for the parliamentary training yet?

[Chair]
No, we are waiting for confirmation from the facilitator. So that's why we haven't been able to confirm the exact date of the web stream for that. Once we confirm that, we'll be able to set the Citizens' Council Rules of Procedure workshop to follow thereafter.

We want to make sure we have enough time to let that session inform the Rules of Procedure as well. Secretary Bramfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you.

[Secretary Brooke Bramfield]
Thank you. For the Constitution Commission, understanding that we weren't able to meet with them this week due to weather, I would just like to request that we meet with them as soon as possible in March, if possible.

[Chair]

Madam President, I trust we'll take that back.

[President Sandmaier]

Yeah, I did let the Constitution, those who were on the Constitution Commission, know that another date will be booked with them as soon as possible, and hopefully that will happen in March. It will depend on the schedule that we have and their schedules as well.

[Chair]

Thank you, Madam President. Any further discussion, questions to the Chair's report? Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]

My apologies, I didn't lower my hand.

[Chair]

Very good. I'll look for a motion to accept the Chair's report as presented. Secretary Chodzicki, seconded by Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

Any further discussion, debate? Opposition to the motion. Motion carries.

The report is accepted. We're running a bit ahead of schedule. Council, would you like to pause now or would you like us to continue moving on?

Continue moving on. Very good. Next on our agenda is under representative business.

I will invite the events manager forward to join us, where we will discuss proposed revised annual Citizens' Gathering gas card guidelines. The floor is all yours.

[Events Manager Taylor Masters]

Good morning, everyone. So I'm here to discuss the gas card policy. Upon kind of our recap of the Citizens' Gathering, our committee found that it was really a detriment to our Citizens that we only had the gas cards available on the one day in the one afternoon.

So in order to make this more accessible to more Citizens, our committee came up with the proposal that we extend the gas card policy and revise it to include both days. So essentially what would happen is on the Friday, we would have registration open all day, and then we would flip in the afternoon to gas card distribution. If you were there and attended the whole day, then you would get a \$50 gas card on the Friday.

And then on the Saturday, we would do the same thing. So you would have the potential to get \$100 in gas instead of just the one \$50. And then if you only attended the one day, you would still get a \$50 gas card.

[Chair]

Very good. Council, questions, thoughts, discussion? Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]

Yes, thank you. Thank you for bringing that up, Taylor. Very much appreciated.

I know in the past we've had some people that either had to try to accommodate that or maybe just only show up on the second day. So I appreciate you guys are extending your hours of service to accommodate all the needs of our Citizens. So I'm in the position to approve if there's nobody else that has any questions.

[Chair]

Am I to understand, Secretary Wolfe, that you wish to make the motion as indicated in the briefing note?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]

Yes.

[Chair]

Very good. So the motion in the briefing note is, be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that the proposed changes to the annual Citizens' Gathering gas card guidelines be accepted and implemented for the 2026 annual Citizens' Gathering. Secretary Lacombe, the floor is yours.

[Secretary Grant Lacombe]

Thank you. I guess one of my concerns would be radius of mileage. My concern is the people that are coming from Central, South and Northern Alberta to, you know, somehow...

I want to be able to let them know that they're accounted for in that second day, those two days, because that's a long travel. And, you know, I don't know what kind of pot there is for that, but it concerns me about the radius. Maybe we should implement the radius to adjust for those Southern and Northern and Eastern, Western Métis people attending.

[Events Manager Taylor Masters]

As it stands right now, our radius is set that anyone traveling further than 150 kilometres from the site of the Citizens' Gathering would then qualify for a gas card. So we don't have... Would you be asking about, like, implementing different radiuses so that people travelling further would get more?

[Chair]

Secretary Lacombe?

[Secretary Lacombe]

For 150 kilometres, you know... And this is just me.

I'm trying to take into consideration that the length plus, like, even 150 kilometres to do that is worth 50 bucks as far as I'm concerned. Then you start getting out of that range, that gas... The price of gas out in those ranges are a lot more.

So maybe a little more thought would be... Put some more thought into it, I think. As a table, I guess.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Lacombe. Secretary Bramfield?

[Secretary Bramfield]

Thank you, Secretary Lacombe, for bringing that forward.

I agree with you, and that the gas card should be increased for people who are travelling much longer or further away. Thinking of our northern and southern Citizens.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Bramfield. Secretary Wolfe?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]

Yes, thank you to both Secretary Bradfield and Secretary Lacombe for bringing that forward. I do recall that we had a meeting on this particular subject about two years ago. I don't remember what the exact date was, in which case that we talked about the different requirements in regards to kilometres and what best suits the needs and also for our Citizens.

And I believe the CEO was at that meeting, and we were talking about what funds were actually available for travel. But it's been a number of months, and maybe it might even be years for this. And I'm pretty sure that we all set that anything above 150 kilometres would actually get a \$50 gift card.

But I might need some clarification on that meeting.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Wolfe. President Sandmaier?

[President Sandmaier]

Yeah, I would have to say that I can see that that would be a barrier for people that are travelling that far, for sure. So I think possibly we need to maybe look at what kind of accommodation we can make in that circumstance. I think at this point, I'm not sure if we just ask Aaron to take it back and we talk about it, if he comes back with something.

[SEO Aaron Barner]

Yeah, that's fair. There's definitely... we can bring back a couple other options.

[Chair]

Secretary Lavallee?

[Secretary Rebecca Lavallee]

I just had a question. Was it one way or both ways for 150 kilometres? Like, is it 150 kilometres going there and back?

Because that's something that I need clarification on because I know that was a complaint that we had from Citizens as well, is that they're going 150 kilometres there, but they're also going 150 kilometres back. But I don't think, I think we talked about it, but I don't know if our thing specifically says one way or if it's accumulation. Yeah, it was just 150 kilometres, but it doesn't say is it like 150 kilometres there and back or just 150 kilometres one way.

[Chair]

Administration?

[Events Manager Taylor Masters]

So it is just 150 kilometres collectively.

We just have the radius map. So if the citizen's permanent address is further and outside that 150 kilometre radius, then they qualify for the \$50 gas card. It's not both ways, if that makes sense.

[Chair]

Thank you. Representative Paul-Alook?

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Thank you. I agree with the comments that have been brought up regarding the difference in distance travelled. And I think that the motion as it is, I would like a further discussion on it and consider other options.

I think that we need to ask, is the goal equal treatment or equal opportunity to participate? I think if it's equal opportunity to participate, we need to look at kind of more of an equity-based, like tiered approach based on the distance that's being travelled. So, for example, the Citizens in my area would have to travel 800 kilometres to attend our Citizens' Gathering, which is considerably further than 150 kilometres.

And that's a one-way travel. So I would be in favour of kind of more of a hybrid or tiered approach.

[Chair]

Thank you, Representative Paul-Alook. Representative Dunfield?

[Representative Dunfield]

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm wondering if it might be more beneficial for us to ask our SEO to go back and take a look at this and then bring it back for a follow-up meeting in regards to the various different options and based off of our funding.

[Chair]

Thank you, Representative Dunfield. Any further discussion on the gas card distribution? Okay, so I look to Secretary Lisa Wolfe, would you be willing to withdraw your motion at this time?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]

Yes, based on the conversations held by different people at the table, I think it's agreeable to move forward as we see fit or as a mean for the administration to look at it.

Thank you.

[Chair]

Very good. As recommended by... Oh, sorry, Secretary Mitchell, please go ahead.

[Secretary Kaila Mitchell]

Yeah, in that, can we just get an assessment of what the cost implications could be?

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Mitchell.

[Secretary Kaila Mitchell]

Perhaps... Not in disagreement, but just for clarification.

[Chair]

I'm going to give you the opportunity to make the motion to direct administration to take this back and bring back further recommendations with a full cost analysis, if you'd like.

[Secretary Mitchell]

Yes.

[Chair]

So moved.

Very good. Is there a seconder? Representative Schnell.

Any opposition from council? The motion carries. Administration is so directed to take this back and further develop it with cost implications.

That takes us to the 2026 Annual Citizens Gathering Artist Call-Out. Taylor, I believe this is still yours.

[Events Manager Taylor Masters]

Yes, it is. So the motion attached to this is, be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that the Citizens Gathering Artist Call-Out Briefing Note be accepted for information as presented. So the background part of this is, last year for the 2025 Citizens' Gathering, we commissioned an artist to create a lovely art piece that was featured heavily in our annual report.

Council then kind of challenged us to create a call-out or an opportunity for artists across the province to submit their artwork or submit their applications. And so with this, we've created the call-out for Métis artists who are Citizens of the Métis Nation within Alberta to be featured as this year's artists at our 98th Annual Citizens' Gathering. The goal is to have this year's theme visually represented at this year's ACG.

The theme, and I'm so sorry, I don't speak Michif, so I'm going to try my best, but the theme is, ê pimohteyahk miyo pimohtewin, we walk forward in a good way. This will shape the identity of the event and be implemented in the design of the event materials. The desire is that the 2026 theme also pulls from Métis tradition through use of imagery of lobstersticks.

Lobstickers were created by cutting off the most lower branches of tall pine or spruce trees. I'm going to skip over the history lesson on this part. So the whole theme of this is we're symbolically raising a lobsterstick and marking the trail that has been cleared over the last century.

We honour the dedication of those who bettered our nation and those who carry on the tradition as we meet in the spirit of culture, community and self-governance. So we published this call-out at the end of January and it just closed last Friday. I'm very pleased to say we had seven applicants and six were really, really strong applications as well.

The committee has met and kind of gone over everything and all of our artists and we'll be making our recommendations here very soon.

[Chair]

Thank you, Taylor. Questions, discussion in respect to the artist call-out?
Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Thank you. I'm prepared to make the motion for accepting it for information. I do want to make a request and it's a common request that has been made at Council that information like this preferably be shared prior to, not after the fact.

We have a ton of really talented artisans across the province and it would be great to know about these things so that we can promote it before the call-out or when the call-out is happening. It's unfortunate that we're learning about it after, but I am prepared to make that motion.

[Chair]

Okay. Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]

I'm happy to second the motion as well and I just wanted to say good work. I saw it come across the social feeds and was excited to share it out to our Citizens and I think it's such an excellent way to uplift and support and give opportunities to our emerging Métis artists. So, thank you.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Leddy. Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]

I have a quick question. When we go to our different events, like let's say the Nature Summit that happened in Calgary and stuff like that and we had artists from Alberta there, are those artists catalogued and possibly asked, like if they don't see that email or get that information, are they kept in a catalogue to say, would you like to be part of this next one or would you like to be part of the gathering in 2026 to participate in that, right? Do you understand what I'm saying?

[Chair]

Administration?

[President Sandmaier]

I think I understand what you're saying. So, we have the Métis Artists Collective that Tyler, our Director of Intergovernmental Relations, he oversees that. And they have an ongoing list of artists within that collective.

So, at our events, when they're hosted by the OMG, those artists are included as well as, I mean, there's so many amazing artists. So, things like the Youth and Seniors Gathering, the Youth Department takes that role on to get artists out to that and they have a lot of artists that attend that. As far as Métis National Council events, we don't have control over who they invite to their events as far as artists.

I mean, they do...often will ask for recommendations if they're doing an event in our province. But there is a Métis Artists Collective and I believe that it's growing. I know Crystal Leddy is with us today and she is a big part of that collective and making sure that artists are in our collective and they're supported.

And like I said, the list is growing all the time.

[Secretary Lacombe]

Yeah, no, that's good. I realized that was an MNC event, but there was Alberta artists within that event. Those are the ones that, like the people that I'm trying to address to see if they are cataloged, like you say.

So, yes, thank you, you did answer my question.

[President Sandmaier]

And, you know, I can bring that forward to Métis National Council as well or have our administration bring it forward. When Tyler gets back, I will talk to him about that and he can also maybe lean a little bit on Métis National Council to make sure that they're letting us know or letting us give recommendations.

[Chair]

Thank you, President Sandmaier. Further discussion in respect to the motion?

[Secretary Nelson Lussier]

I just have a question.

[Chair]

Secretary Lussier, go ahead.

[Secretary Lussier]

I'm over here.

Are we able to have access to that list, that collective?

[Events Manager Taylor Masters]

The list of artists in the collective?

[President Sandmaier]

We can find out when Tyler's back. He's away right now.

[Chair]

Any other questions, discussion? Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just wanting to reiterate what Representative Paul-Alook shared, that this information is being brought to us after the fact and it's really important that Citizens' Council is made aware of actions that are being taken that affect our Citizens so we can ensure that we are providing the most updated information to our Citizens before it comes to council for approval.

[Chair]

I think it's been noted. Any further discussion, council? Seeing none, is there any opposition to the motion, which was be resolved by Citizens' Council that the Citizens' Gathering Artists Call-Out Briefing Note be accepted for information as presented?

Any opposition? Seeing none, the motion is carried. The briefing is accepted for information.

Thank you, Taylor. Appreciate your time. Council, at this point, we will take a 15-minute break and then come back into the Secretary reports, so Council stands in recess for 15 minutes.

Okay. Next on our agenda are the Secretary reports. Madam President, you have the floor.

[President Sandmaier]

Yeah. Mr. Chair and Council, I have a point of order to raise and I have been advised over the break that there is an urgent addition required to the Council agenda in the in-camera session to hear from our Director of Human Resources regarding some emerging personal matters, so I would look for your support to add that item to the in-camera session under 10A.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]

Do you want A?

[President Sandmaier]

Yeah, we could make it 10D.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]

I'll support that.

[Chair]

Okay. It's a point of order. It requires consent of all Council because the agenda has been adopted.

That would add 10D personnel matter to in-camera to be presented by Human Resources. Is there any opposition from Council to that addition to the agenda? Secretary Lisa Wolfe, you're willing to make that motion then to have the addition?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]

That is correct, Mr. Chair.

[Chair]

Secunder? Secretary Ekeberg? Any opposition?

One more time. I see none. There is consent for the addition.

The agenda is so amended. Okay. Back to our regular course of business then.

Secretary Reports, we have agenda item 8A, and I believe the Secretary of Records, the floor is yours for this one.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Just a quick clarification on the briefing note. There was a very slight oversight just regarding the title page of the Live Streaming and Recording regulation.

If you look at the title page, it does say Video recording and Live streaming regulation. I just wanted to correct that on everybody and let them know that that has been corrected or is being corrected as we speak on the online registry copy, just so everybody knows. And that was just because we decided before that we were going to also be transcribing and recording audio, so just video recording didn't make sense, so we cut the video.

It doesn't change anything in the regulation itself. But for the sake of the motion, we have two motions here, and I'm going to read a little bit of the background first. In June 2025, the Secretary of Records mandate was updated to enhance transparency systems by collaborating with administration to publicize Citizens' Council meetings, ensure meeting recordings are accessible, and to develop a regulation which supports and regulates the live streaming and video recording of Citizens' Council meetings for the benefit of all Citizens.

After months of refinement and with feedback from Citizens' Council, as per the procedure of regulations set out within the Self-Government Act of the Otipemisiwak Métis government, the Live streaming and Recording regulation was introduced by way of motion to the Cabinet in the December 2025 meeting. On December 9th, 2025, after a thorough discussion, the Live streaming and Recording regulation was passed unanimously by Cabinet. Currently, the Live streaming and Recording regulation is in force.

It came into force on January 22nd, 2026, when it was deposited to the public registry. And at the back of the regulation, we do have Schedule A, which is to define portions of the recordings that shall be removed in post-meeting redactions, such as personal information, sensitive information, and other defined instances. Now, the two motions.

We have be it resolved that the schedule to the Live streaming and Recording regulation be accepted by Citizens' Council for information as presented, or be it resolved that the schedule to the Live Streaming and Recording regulation be adopted by Citizens' Council with amendments and referred to Cabinet for inclusion in the Live streaming and Recording regulation.

[Chair]

Thank you, Madam Secretary. Okay, Council. Discussion?

Thoughts? Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]

Yes, good afternoon. Oh, almost afternoon. So, on this Appendix A here, Secretary Wolfe, also the header, I guess, on this December 25 report will also be amended?

Is that correct?

[Chair]

She can't respond until you turn your mic off. Very well. Secretary?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

Yes. So, the header is being amended as we speak, so that everywhere where that header is, it will be corrected.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]

Very good.

Thank you.

[Chair]

Further discussion? Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]

Thank you. I think just for clarity from Secretary Lisa Wolfe, was anywhere where it states video recording, will that be removed?

[Chair]

Secretary Wolfe?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

It's specifically in the title of the regulation itself. Within the regulation, there will be instances that talk specifically about the video recording and specifically about the transcription and accessibility.

[Representative Dunfield]

Okay, thank you.

[Chair]

Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]

I just have a couple of questions just for clarification. For... I'm not sure which page it's on.

It's 7-3. The clause reads that the audiovisual recordings are not part of the official record for any of our council proceedings. Just wondering why they would not be part of the official record as presumably they would be the most accurate account of any proceeding?

[Chair]

Okay, we'll come back to that question and get that answer for you. Representative Paul-Alook? Secretary Sarah Wolfe, do you have that answer now?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

I was just going to say the meeting minutes, as we discussed, are the official record. And I believe we've had that conversation just several times over the past three years that the meeting minutes will remain the official record of all of our Citizens' Council minutes.

Or meetings, sorry.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary. Representative Paul-Alook?

[Representative Paul-Alook]

I did have another question, but if there's anybody else that's in the line, I can just re-raise my hand. I'm not sure if there's anybody else, I can't see.

[Chair]

Okay, we'll go to Secretary Lavallee and we'll come back to you, Representative Paul-Alook.

[Secretary Lavallee]

Sorry, I just had a citizen text saying that the audio on the live stream is not working, so they can't hear us.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Lavallee. I'm glaring at the AV guys again. We will pause briefly while they work on this.

Very good. I'm told it's working now. Secretary Leddy?

[Secretary Leddy]

Yeah, I just wanted to say that I'm very happy that you were able to complete this, Secretary Wolfe. I've been wanting us to live stream our meetings since day one. I've been yelling about it a lot, and I'm just so happy that we've finally gotten here, and to our credit, have it going right now.

This is an amazing feat, and I'm very excited. Can I make the motion for, if it hasn't been made yet, that it be resolved that the schedule to the live streaming and recording regulation be accepted by Citizens' Council for information as presented?

[Chair]

Thank you for making that motion, Representative Ward.

[Representative Trevor Ward]

Yeah, I have a question. I'm just wondering who has access to these, or how do they get access to these recordings?

Does anyone have access? Just unless I'm misreading something.

[Chair]

Secretary Wolfe, can you speak to that?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

Hi. So the recordings, as this is the first one, so it will be a process, but after 30 days, the recordings will be posted on the public registry, along with the minutes and transcriptions and anything else that people need for fully accessibility to these. And yes, just due to the nature of how live streaming and recording works, anybody does have access to them, but the regulation is very clear as to what those recordings can and cannot be used for.

[Representative Ward]

Thank you.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Wolfe. Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Just seeking further clarification, further down in the regulations, section 11.1, where it says that the Chair in consultation with the President or the Secretary of Records can cause sections of the recordings to be redacted. I just wanted to ensure that that risk mitigation section, is that only, does that section only pertain to the recorded meeting, or does that also apply? Do any parts of that risk mitigation section apply to the live stream as well?

[Chair]

Secretary Wolfe.

[Secretary Wolfe]

So due to the nature of live streaming, it's hard to cut things out mid live stream. However, any type of recording afterwards will be redacted pertaining to schedule A, which is in the appendix. So those are all the things that the Chair in consultation with the President or Secretary of Records would be able to redact from the recording.

And that would also include any audio recording and transcriptions.

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Okay, perfect. And then lastly, I do have one other comment and it's under the prohibited use section, section 13, specifically B and C, political campaigning and

partisan purposes. Because partisan purposes commonly is seen as kind of different parties and we don't have different parties in our governance structure.

I'm just wondering if that might be a point of confusion for Citizens and wondering if it wouldn't be beneficial if we had either specific examples of such instances for these terms included in either the interpretation section or perhaps maybe alternate wording that would specify what meeting recordings are not eligible to be used for, such as election campaigning, candidate promotion, like any activity intended to secure electoral advantage, anything that would imply like endorsement of a candidate or in a misleading or altered way that kind of can distort context. Just wondering if there would be any benefit for maybe elaborating on those a little bit, just because I can see that there may be a point of confusion or discussion further down the road.

[Chair]
Secretary Wolfe?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
I believe Mr. Chair, you'd be able to give a more thorough answer to Representative Paul-Alook if you don't mind helping me with this. Thank you.

[Chair]
Yeah, I can refer to the definition under interpretation at section 3(2)(f) at partisan purposes. This is the language that was designed fairly broadly with input from the former Chief Electoral Officer to capture their perspective on the broad uses that you've described, Representative Paul-Alook, influencing the decisions, policies, or elections of any of those levels of governments or their officials or candidates or prospective candidates should cover all of those activities. The more specific you get, the more likely we are to miss something is the advice that was given from the office at the time.

Certainly, I think the Secretary can take your feedback back and when the regulation comes up for review, take that into consideration though. Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Thank you.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just had a question just to follow up to what Representative Paul-Alook asked regarding whether or not the recorded meetings would be seen as official documentation for our meetings.

Considering that we have not finalized our rules of procedure, if I do recall correctly, there was a point where the question was raised about live streaming being part of the official record of our meetings, whether or not that would be under rules of procedure. My question is when we do review and go through our rules of procedure in April, whether or not that is taken in consideration in this regulation because as a

council, if we do decide that in our rules of procedure that the recorded live streaming would be part of the official record, how would we change that in this regulation?

[Chair]
Secretary Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
If in the future when we are doing our rules of procedure, that is the wish of the council to have these be accounted for as an official record. After every general election, this regulation is able to be reviewed. As per how regulations work, that would just need to be brought forward as a motion from Cabinet to make that change.

[Representative Dunfield]
Just to be clear, is it a motion from Cabinet or a motion from Council to review the regulation?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
From cabinet.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you.

[Chair]
Secretary Mitchell.

[Secretary Kaila Mitchell]
So I'm trying to figure out why we would want the video recording as the official. And the only reason why I'm saying that is because when I was at the province, we used Hansard a lot of the times as the official record. And that is a little bit more detailed as to what's said on video or in meetings and committee, all that kind of stuff.

I'm just trying to think through what the implications could be if we use video versus minutes and something similar to Hansard. I know we don't have that capability right now.

Yeah, thoughts?

[Chair]
Secretary Wolfe, do you have thoughts on this or is it something we would need to take back?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
I would like to take that back so I can get a more thorough answer. But just off of the top of my head, it is a protection for our Council. Our meeting minutes being the

official record stops things from being taken out of context, which I think everybody would be grateful for.

Another thing I would just like to remind everybody is that we are looking particularly at schedule A right now. And if Council does want to add anything to schedule A for what things could be redacted from our Council meetings, if we could look through that. But I do believe Secretary Leddy did make a motion.

Mr. Chair, was there anybody who seconded that motion yet?

[Chair]

There was not, Secretary Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

I would like to second that motion, please.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Wolfe. So the motion has been seconded. There's still discussion on the floor, so we'll continue the discussion.

Secretary Wolfe makes a good point. The reference in the briefing note is to have Council go through schedule A and make sure that it aligns with their wishes in respect to the regulation. That starts at page nine of the regulation, just for reference.

Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Just to speak as to why it may be used as, or why it could be beneficial to be used as part of the official record, is that typically when we do have, when we have had questions in the past regarding what was said or, you know, anything like that, we have always gone back to that recorded meeting and it'd been clarified through that process. And we've changed minutes in the past based on that. And we, up until this point, we have actually used our recordings as the true account of when there's been anything that's been questioned or disputed in our minutes.

So just, I guess, bringing that point forward.

[Chair]

Okay. It sounds like the discussion around official record is one that's going to be taken back and we'll have an informed discussion, likely informed by your legal counsel, to give insight into that. Is there a discussion in particular in respect to schedule A that Council wishes to engage in, given the motion on the floor?

I see some folks reading. I'll give some time to make sure that people have had a chance to go through it. Okay.

I think, oh, sorry, Representative Paul-Alook, I didn't see your hand. Go ahead.

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Just again, a question of clarification around, sorry, I just had to move my screen up here, for C and E, information that may be harmful to intergovernmental relations and information that may be harmful to the corporate or financial interests of our Métis government. Is there, like, are you able to provide specific examples of what kind of information would be considered harmful? And if maybe that needs to be included or expanded on a little bit there?

[Chair]

It would be challenging to provide specific examples without violating exactly those two provisions that we're proposing. However...

[Representative Paul-Alook]

I can appreciate that.

But is there a way to say it that would be more telling as to what is actually going to be prohibited and what might be allowed? So are we not allowed to mention other governments? You know, like, are any mention of any other governments or any relationships or anything like that, would those things be redacted?

Or, like, I guess, how are we classifying it as harmful?

[Chair]

I can give you my interpretation as the Chair to how I would apply these two sections, or subsections, and we can go from there. So information that may be harmful to intergovernmental relations, the key element within that clause is harmful. If Council had directed administration to negotiate with an external governing body, whether it be the Government of Alberta, the Government of Canada, another indigenous government, another municipal government, and enter into negotiations, you wouldn't want those discussions to be put into the public while those negotiations are ongoing because it could harm your negotiating position or hinder your negotiating position. Once an agreement is in place, as long as the agreement doesn't have confidentiality clauses, that agreement could conceivably be made public, provided making that public wouldn't harm that relationship or impede your ability to meet your obligations under it. So again, the key word within that statement is harmful to intergovernmental relations.

If you needed to have a discussion around challenges that you faced with either of the Crown governments, those discussions will not always be had in public because you want to be able to talk frankly with your colleagues about the challenges that we have within the colonial construct and the colonial framework. So there will be times where that won't make it into a public recording that's released because you know that your colonial partners and other governments will be watching that and using that to inform their decision-making. When we look at E, information that may be harmful to the corporate or financial interests of the Métis government, things like personnel matters, if they were inadvertently raised in a council meeting, that would be harmful to the corporate interests of the government.

If you're in a contract negotiation with a vendor and giving input into how an RFP might be designed and that inadvertently came out in a public session, we would redact that from the recordings and the transcript as well. Anything that would hinder your financial or your corporate position or potentially put the corporation of your government at risk, those would be the things I would be looking for as Chair as we go through recordings and transcripts.

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Okay. I definitely appreciate and understand the need for the clause. I was just looking for clarification around that and then kind of, I guess, the second piece to that is, is it correct that it would be the Chair in consultation with the President and the Secretary of Records making the call as to identifying which pieces of that information might be harmful?

[Chair]

Secretary Wolfe?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

Yes, that is correct.

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Okay.

And in instances such as these where it's potentially harmful, it would also be recorded in our meeting minutes that there was a section redacted?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

Yes. If you look at the regulation on, where is it here? Sorry, I'm just trying to find, I know in here it does say specifically that any redactions from a meeting will be recorded in a way that is appropriate for the meeting minutes and then that will be brought to Citizens' Council.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Wolfe. Representative Paul-Alook, follow up?

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Is it also correct that the decision for redaction needs to be recorded with, is it also with a reason why it's redacted or just a note that it was redacted in the time?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

So on, Secretary Leddy did help me find this on the page. So page six in post-meeting redaction, 11.1, the Chair in consultation with the President or the provincial Secretary of Records shall cause to be redacted any portions of recordings before publication if they contain any statements, information or records as may be identified from time to time in a schedule to this regulation which shall be approved by Citizens' Council. Two, redactions must be documented and reported to the

Citizens' Council in the minutes of the meeting in a manner that maintains the nature and confidentiality of the redaction.

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Okay, so it wouldn't be identified the reason for the redaction, it would just be identified that there was one. Is that what that means?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

I believe it would be as descriptive as it could be while maintaining confidentiality.

[Secretary Paul-Alook]

Okay, thank you.

[Chair]

Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]

Just to clarify, so the intent is to post within 30 days of our meeting, is that correct?

[Chair]

Secretary Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

Yes, that is what is stated in the regulation.

[Representative Dunfield]

Okay, so the only concern that I would have with that is if you look at, if you go back to section 11 that need to be approved by Citizens' Council, if Citizens' Council is not meeting within that 30 days, are we able to meet that threshold? I'm wondering if maybe the potential to change it to 45 days might be more beneficial in order to meet the threshold.

[Chair]

Secretary Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

Yes, so if you look at 11.1, it's the schedule to the regulation which is to be approved by Citizens' Council, not the redactions themselves. So the 30 day limit which applies to our minutes will also be applying to the recording.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Wolfe. Representative Paul-Alook, back to you.

[Representative Dunfield]

Oh, sorry. I just had a follow-up question to that then.

[Chair]

Sure, go ahead, Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]

So then Citizens' Council will not be provided an update on any redactions prior to it being posted, is that correct?

[Chair]

Secretary Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

So in 11.2, the redactions will be noted and reported to Citizens' Council in the minutes of the meeting. So you do still have to approve the meeting minutes before minutes are posted.

[Chair]

Representative Dunfield, does that answer your question?

[Representative Dunfield]

I guess I'm still trying to wrap my head around and I apologize, but the minutes of the meeting will be posted, but the actual recording of the meeting would be posted prior to approval, not approval, but the redactions being shown to Citizens' Council, is that?

[Chair]

Secretary Wolfe.

[Representative Dunfield]

That's what I'm hearing.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

Yes.

[Representative Dunfield]

So Citizens' Council would then therefore not have the redactions prior to our next meeting. Okay, I understand.

Thank you.

[Chair]

Thank you, Representative Dunfield. Any further discussion in respect to the schedule? Are we ready to call a question on the motion?

All right, Council. The motion that's on the floor is be it resolved that the schedule to the Video recording and Live streaming regulation be accepted by Citizens' Council for information as presented. So that would be accepting the schedule as it is.

Further discussion?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Mr. Chair.

[Chair]
Secretary Wolfe, please go ahead. Thank you.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
I would just like to amend the title of that to Live streaming and Recording regulation within the motion, please.

[Chair]
Madam Clerk, have we captured that?

Very good.

Secunder, any issue? Who was the seconder on this? Oh, who was the mover?

Secretary Leddy, any issue?

[Secretary Leddy]
No, because that's how I read it.

[Chair]
Lovely. Perfect. Okay.

In that case, Council, any further discussion on this debate? Is there any opposition to the motion? Seeing none.

The motion carries. And the schedule is referred back to Cabinet as is. Thank you, Council.

That takes us into agenda item 8B, which is the Citizenship and Registry report. Secretary Chodzicki, the floor is all yours. Your microphone, Mr. Secretary.

[Secretary Chodzicki]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. So my report will be just presented for information purposes only. And I just want to clarify that the Director for Registry is not going to be here today for the next report.

So any questions, we might have to refer to... I might have to get back to you with the answer, is what I'm trying to say.

[Chair]
Thank you, Secretary Chodzicki.

[Secretary Chodzicki]

For my briefing note, it's all in front of you right now, and it's just for information purposes. Now, do you want me to read it out, or are we good with just the motion and moving ahead that way?

[Chair]

Perhaps for the benefits of our Citizens who are online, we should go through some of the details, Mr. Secretary, if that's okay.

[Secretary Chodzicki]

Okay, here we go. Motion required. Be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that the Citizenship and Registry Portfolio update be accepted for information as presented.

Current status. Develop and maintain a robust registry database for the purpose of data management for Citizens and harvesters. The registry database is an in-depth system used to keep track of MNA applicants, Citizens, and harvesters.

The information is stored on a secure online database that is regularly updated by MNA registry staff. Registry has continued to maintain the database by maintaining a thorough record of Citizens who are deceased by searching online obituaries and reaching out to the government organizations such as Alberta Vital Statistics and to access documentation for validation. Working with Indigenous Service Canada to identify Citizens who also have status on an Indian registry or band list.

These individuals are contacted and informed of the ISC findings that give sufficient time to either refute or confirm the removal of their citizenship with Otipemisiwak Métis government. This keeps the integrity of our database secure. Continued outreach focused on supporting self-identifying Métis and becoming Citizens and harvesters.

Many Citizens live in locations outside of major cities in Alberta, cannot access the internet to print a Citizen application. Registry has continued its outreach by traveling to communities across Alberta to host in-person registry sessions at local community centers, rec centers, conference centers, etc. Scheduling registry sessions in universities which have good engagement, provide resources to students and reach an audience that are already primed to expand their own horizons.

Scheduling registry sessions in correctional facilities to reach applicants who may not have had the opportunity to register with the MNA and provide them with information on resources and other forms of engagement. Collaborating across portfolios to validate application applicant citizenship for OMG programs and services. Improving communications between the registry department and other MNA departments is critical to validate MNA citizenship for the numerous programs and services that the MNA offers.

Registry has continued to validate applicant citizenship by continuing to work with other departments on applications of programs and services that go through the

registry database. This supports a more robust database which includes updating addresses for Citizens. These serve the dual purpose of creating efficient...efficiency within the application process and validating addresses which lead to the better district reporting and ensuring consistency when administering programs to the MNA Citizens.

Recent support to programs include Métis Cup, Seniors and Youth Gatherings, Artisan Call Out for Citizens Gathering. Just a reminder that the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Registry is second to none in the country. With that, that's my report.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Chodzicki. Okay.

If you want to turn your mic off, Mr. Secretary, we'll take some questions from the floor.

[Secretary Chodzicki]

Oh.

[Chair]

Secretary Lacombe, to you.

[Secretary Lacombe]

Thanks for your report, Joe.

I realize Director McKay's not here, but my question would be, I'd like to know an update on the timelines for how long it's taken for Citizens to get their membership done and also if there is, and I know there is, discrepancies in members that have passed on. Because I know we've, as a district, we sent in some stuff and I have met people that are still receiving asks for votes and stuff like that and they say that that person had passed on. So those are the numbers that I'd like to see maybe at the next meeting when Shawn is here or whenever that can happen.

Thank you.

[Chair]

Secretary Chodzicki, do you have that answer today?

[Secretary Chodzicki]

I do have.

[Chair]

Lovely.

[Secretary Chodzicki]

First of all, I'll answer the first question first, which is always good, I guess.

Okay. Based on the application, if the application is complete and we're not looking for anything else, you can expect your card within four to six months that you will be approved. But now, a lot of the onus has to be on the citizen because sometimes they just drop it off and there's things missing and we can't get a hold of them.

So sometimes it'll be longer if there's things that we need. But if everything's there, within four to six months, your application is being processed. And then we're going to the death part of it.

We are working on that continuously every day, trying to gather up all the information on people that have deceased and passed away. But we're not there yet. We're still working on this daily process.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Chodzicki. Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]

Thank you, Secretary Chodzicki, for such a thorough report. I'm happy to move that Council accepts your report for information as presented.

[Chair]

Thank you, Representative Paul-Alook. Representative Schnell.

[Representative Catherine Schnell]

Hi, I just wanted to agree with Grant on when you give someone... I've put in the death obituary for my sister in April and she was still mailed a voting ballot for this past election. So I'm just wondering what the timeline is for that once you've submitted that.

Like I said, it was April 15th, I think, and she's still on the list to be given a ballot. So I just thought perhaps that should be looked into. Thank you.

[Secretary Chodzicki]

I can't actually give you a timeline on that, but, I mean, if you want to send me over her name, I will research it and find out why she's still on the list.

[Representative Schnell]

All right.

Thank you.

[Chair]

Thank you, Representative Schnell. Secretary Lavallee.

[Secretary Lavallee]

For the processing time for completed applications, is a lot of the delay due to waiting back from the federal government to come back with the Indian status thing, like the letter, is that what's taking a majority of the time?

[Chair]

AV, Secretary Chodzicki's mic is not working for some reason. Everybody is green today for some reason all of a sudden. They won't be able to hear you on the live stream.

So we'll give AV a chance to figure out what's happening. For the folks online, we appreciate your patience while we work through some of the rats in the nest to get things moving.

[Secretary Chodzicki]

Okay, Secretary Lavallee, that was you that asked the question? I don't think that's the whole thing because we are in touch with the Indian Affairs, you know, constantly throughout the year. So I don't think that's the problem.

I think, you know, maybe it's a combination of a lot of problems, but some of it has to be, the onus has to be on the applicant to make sure their application is filled out properly.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Chodzicki. So I no longer have the speaking list because everyone went away. So if there was any other questions, now is the time to make yourself known, Representative Ward.

Okay, so it looks like we don't have any mics working still. We are going to go into recess for 10 minutes and give AV some time without all of the stress of us staring at them to work this out. So Council stands in recess for 10 minutes.

People in the room have just been advised by AV that they need some more time to work on this system. So Council stands in recess for lunch for one hour. We will return at 1 o'clock.

Head back into the agenda item that we were in when we recessed, which was the Citizenship and Registry Report from Secretary Chodzicki. Now, if you asked me where we were at in that report and its delivery and questions versus responses, I can't remember at all. So, Secretary Chodzicki, I'll turn the floor over to you if you were in the middle of answering a question.

If not, I can open it up to Council. You just let me know.

[Secretary Chodzicki]

I think I did answer all the questions. I'm not sure if there's any more.

[Chair]

Very good. Council, were there any lasting questions for Secretary Chodzicki? Or is everyone full from lunch now?

Representative Ward, please go ahead.

[Representative Trevor Ward]

Yeah, no, thank you for your report, Joe. I guess I would just like to wonder, I'm wondering if registry could be, when we have our registration drives, if there's some way that we could, that maybe registries could inform District Council when they are happening so that we can be advertising them on like our website and social media.

And what would you like to see from District Councils that could help you facilitate something like that?

[Chair]

Secretary Chodzickii?

[Secretary Chodzicki]

Okay, I think that's doable, that we could start informing the District Councils if we're coming to town in that area. The second part of that question, I'm not really sure what I'd like to see.

I mean, we're certainly moving ahead. We're closing in on 80,000 Citizens now. So we're moving pretty good.

So what we really need to do is work together. So what you're saying, let's contact the districts, let's work together.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Chodzicki. Any other discussion, questions to the Secretary's report?

Seeing none, I looked at the clerk. Do we have a motion on the floor to accept the report, Madam Clerk, or not yet?

Okay.

We have it moved by Representative Paul-Alook to accept the report for information. Looking for a seconder. Secretary Ekeberg?

Secretary Sarah Wolfe? Very good. Any other discussion or debate in respect to the report?

Any opposition to the motion? Motion carries. The report is accepted.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Appreciate that. That takes us into Agenda Item 9A, which is the Registrar's Quarterly Update.

As a reminder to Council, these were requested quarterly by Council from the Registrar. The Registrar has given us notice that he is ill today and unable to attend. But his written report is before you.

So, Council, we have two options. You can accept the report for information as presented, or we can table it if you have questions and ask the Registrar to appear in the future. What is your wish?

Secretary Mitchell?

[Secretary Mitchell]

I would like to move the motion.

[Chair]

Very good. Secretary Mitchell moves, being resolved by Citizens' Council, that the February 2026 Registrar's Quarterly Update be accepted for information as presented. Is there a seconder?

Secretary Sarah Wolfe?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

I will second. Thank you.

[Chair]

Thank you kindly. Discussion? Debate?

Is there any opposition to the motion? Motion carries. The report is accepted for information as presented.

That takes us into Agenda Item 9B, Under Self-Government, the Transition Report. I believe the Manager of Transition is online. The floor is all yours, Nicole.

[Transition Manager Nicole Shepherd]

I am. Thank you, Mr. Chair. All right.

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government continues to advance the transition process. As of the date of this transition report, February 9th, we have established district councils in 15 Otipemisiwak Métis Government districts. The transition team continues to work hard to support the transition from the old governance structure, meeting with local councils and newly established district councils to guide them through the transition process.

Incorporated district councils, the following districts have successfully adopted their bylaws as of the date of this report. Foothills Métis District 1, elections are complete for this term. Medicine Hat Métis District 2, elections are complete for this term.

Red Deer Métis District 3, elections are currently ongoing and the last day of voting is February 22nd. Rocky View Métis District 4, a by-election for the vacant district captain's position is to be determined. Currently, a deputy captain has been appointed until an election is called to replace the late Captain Amber Boyd.

Calgary-Elbow Métis District 6, the district council will hold an election to implement staggered terms and a by-election for the vacant district council counselor position is to be determined. Jasper House Métis District 7, elections are complete for this term. Lac-Ste-Anne Métis District 8, elections are complete for this term.

Fort Edmonton Métis District 9, a by-election for the vacant district counselor position is to be determined. St. Albert Métis District 11, elections are complete for this term. St. Paul-Cold Lake Métis District 12, elections are complete for this term. Two district counselor positions were open for a by-election in the ongoing election cycle and both were acclaimed. Fort McMurray Métis District 17, elections are complete for this term. Lac La Biche Métis District 19, the elections are complete for this term and a by-election for the vacant district counselor position is to be determined.

Athabasca Landing Métis District 20, a by-election for the vacant district counselor is to be determined. Lesser Slave Lake Métis District 21, elections are complete for this term. Wabasca-Desmarais Métis District 22, a by-election is currently ongoing and the last day of voting is February 22nd.

Districts with fully approved bylaws, the following districts have fully approved district council bylaws and are ready to call or have already called a special meeting to adopt their bylaws. Edmonton-Whitemud Métis District 10, bylaws were fully approved by the Citizens' Council in July of 2024. A transition meeting was held for the Citizens of the Edmonton-Whitemud District on July 4th, 2025.

As of November 2025, we found out the President of the local is on a leave of absence. Fort Vermillion Métis District 15, bylaws were fully approved in April of 2025. However, the local is currently struck and cannot hold their special meeting until revived.

The local has advised that they have amended their approved bylaws and will seek Citizens' Council approval of the revised bylaws. Districts with partially approved bylaws, the following districts have partially approved bylaws and are ready to call a special meeting to adopt their bylaws. Once the bylaws are approved at a special meeting, the districts will submit their bylaws for Citizens' Council's full approval.

Grande Prairie Métis District 13, bylaws approved in principle in April of 2025. The locals who are Grande Prairie Local 1990 and Valleyview 1929 have advised that they will be meeting during the week of February 9th to discuss possible changes to

their bylaws. Peace River Métis District 14, bylaws approved in principle in March of 2025.

The locals have advised, who are Manning 2020, Peace River 78, and Fairview 205, and they have advised that they will be meeting during the week of February 9th to discuss possible changes to their bylaws. Districts with bylaws in review, the following district is in the process of preparing District Council bylaws, which is Conklin Métis District 18. The local has prepared draft bylaws and is in the process of reviewing with their legal counsel.

The local has held two bylaw engagement meetings with its members and will be communicating on the outcome shortly. In other updates, Calgary-Nose Hill Métis District 5, the Chief Electoral Officer received and validated a petition calling for the election of a district captain. The election is currently ongoing.

Last day of voting is February 22nd. This will most likely be our 16th transition district once bylaws are completed, approved, and submitted following the election. Fort Chipewyan Métis District 16, a transition information session for the Citizens in the Fort Chipewyan Métis District was held on September 3rd, 2025.

Fort Chipewyan Local 125 held an election on November 25th, 2025, and a new president has been elected. The transition team is arranging an initial meeting with President Ruby Ladouceur with the intention of beginning the transition process for the Fort Chipewyan Métis District. And last but not least, Region 2.

On January 15th, 2026, Region 2 successfully held a meeting at which its members voted unanimously to begin the transition process and ultimately dissolve the Regional Council. The transition team is currently working to finalize the work required to complete the transition process for Region 2. And that is it for my report.

[Chair]

Thank you, Nicole. Questions to the transition report? Council?

Secretary Leddy?

[Secretary Leddy]

I would like to move the motion.

[Chair]

Very good. Secretary Leddy moves, be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that the February 19th, 2026 transition report be accepted for information as presented. Is there a seconder to that motion?

Secretary Ekeberg? Discussion? Debate?

Any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries. The report is accepted.

Thank you kindly, Nicole. Okay, the remainder of our business today will be in-camera items. For those Council members who do not have the benefit today of joining us via camera to go through the declarations for in-camera, Legal Counsel has facilitated the emailing of written declarations for you.

If you folks could check your emails, they tell me none of them have been returned as yet, and look to completing those. That would be very helpful. But that will be the end of the majority of our public business for today, with the exception of when we come back dealing with key messages and the President's closing, and then our adjournment.

So, with that, we're going to recess for 10 minutes to allow AV to make the necessary steps they need to do, and Council to go through their emails and look for those declarations. We will come back at 1:30 to go into closed session.

[Representative Dunfield]

Mr. Chair...Dunfield, just wanting to let you know I actually signed that form twice and sent it back twice, so I'm not sure what's going on.

[Chair]

We shall work through it on our end as well, and we'll be in touch if we need to.

[Representative Dunfield]

Okay, thank you.

[Chair]

Very good. We will be back at 1:30. Council stands in recess.

...Declaration matters.

Before we go into closed session, Madam President, I understand you would like the floor.

[President Sandmaier]

Sorry, I was pressing the wrong button. My apologies. It's been a day with technical issues.

It has come to my attention, a Citizens' Representative has brought to my attention some emails that have been sent to all of us with regards to a sensitive topic that I would again ask Council and Chair if we could add that to the agenda.

[Chair]

Okay, Madam President. So in camera, it sounds like intergovernmental matter. I look to you, Council, for your consent to add as agenda item 10E intergovernmental matter.

Is there anyone opposed to that?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
No.

[Chair]
Secretary Lisa Wolfe, would you make the motion, please?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
I'll make the motion, Mr. Chair.

[Chair]
Thank you kindly. Secunder, Representative Campbell seconds. Any opposition?

It is by consent because we're amending the agenda again, so look to all of you. No opposition. Motion carries.

The agenda is so amended to add 10E intergovernmental matter. Okay. That takes us to the closed portion of the session.

Then I will look to Council for a motion to go in camera. Secretary Chodzicki moves, seconded by Representative Ward. Any opposition to going into closed session?

Seeing none, motion carries.

The meeting is now in closed session.

[Chair]
To be dealt with is a motion to refer the Kahsketakhk constituting instruments to administration for amendments as discussed and an online review and engagement with Council. Is there someone willing to make that motion? Secretary Lavallee, seconded by Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

Discussion? Debate? Any opposition?

Motion carries. So referred. With respect to the nomination committee, Judicial Tribunal, Secretary Collins, are you willing to move the appointment recommended by the nominations committee for the Battle River Judicial Tribunal posting?

[Secretary Karen Collins]
I am so, Mr. Chair.

[Chair]
Very good. Representative Ward, still okay to second? So moved.

Any discussion? Debate? None.

Any opposition to the motion? Motion carries. Appointment is confirmed.

And that would be of Adam Latourneau. Next item on the agenda is the 2026-2027 annual budget update. Secretary Collins, still willing to move acceptance for information?

[Secretary Collins]
I do so, Mr. Chair.

[Chair]
Representative Tremblay, still okay to second? Very good. Discussion?

Debate? Any opposition? Motion carries.

It's accepted for information. With respect to item D, personnel matter, the motion is be it resolved as a special resolution of the Citizens' Council that the resolution regarding a confidential human resources matter be adopted as presented. This is a special resolution.

It requires a vote. It must have 75% to pass. So as a mover, I have Representative Schnell, as seconder...Secretary Leddy.

Still willing to move and second? Very good. Okay.

This is being a special resolution. I'm going to go for a show of hands in the room and then I will call out online. All those in favour in the room?

All those opposed in the room? Online. I will go through the list.

Secretary Dunfield, in favour?

[Representative Dunfield]
Yes.

[Chair]
Secretary Quintal?

[Secretary Valerie Quintal]
Yes.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
In favour.

[Chair]
Secretary Collins?

[Secretary Collins]
In favour.

[Chair]
Representative L'Hirondelle?

[Representative Alfred L'Hirondelle]
In favour.

[Chair]
Very good.

Representative Campbell, because you're in the room, I have to ask you to record your vote. Are you in favour of the motion or opposed? In favour?

Yes? Very good. Okay.

Carried unanimously. President doesn't need to cast a vote in that matter. With respect to the intergovernmental matter, there was a motion to have the president send an email based on the discussion and for the remainder to be referred to legal counsel for next steps.

The mover is Secretary Leddy. She has stepped away now. Is there someone still willing to move that?

Secretary Sarah Wolfe, is there a seconder willing to second that? Representative Schnell? Okay.

Any discussion? Debate? Any opposition to the motion?

Motion carries. And that matter is so disposed. Key messages, Madam President, would you like us to go through them or would you like us to dispose of them?

[President Sandmaier]
I think we can table that.

[Chair]
Okay. Table.

[President Sandmaier]
People are getting their coats on.

[Chair]
Closing remarks. Is it a matter of goodnight before the doors?

[President Sandmaier]

All right. I just want to, again, thank everybody. There was great conversation around the table today and some really heavy topics and that is always difficult and it weighs on us.

So I thank you so much for being here and doing that hard work for our Citizens. And that is the reason why we're here, is in service of our Citizens. And I'm very proud to sit at this table with all of you.

So thank you very much and we'll see you at Métis Crossing. Oh, we need a closing prayer, but that's your job.

[Chair]

Thank you, Madam President. Secretary Wolfe, would you like to close us with a blessing?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]

I sure would. Thank you.

Please pray in your own way to your Creator, please. Father, I just thank you for this day. I thank you, Father, that you put us all in this place, Father, to use your wisdom, to use our heartfelt, professional manner in all the circumstances that we dealt with today.

I thank you for the hard conversations, but I also thank you for good relations. I pray for a safe trip for all of us going to Métis Crossing and back home again. And just pray for peace over this weekend.

Amen.

[Chair]

Thank you, Secretary Wolfe. There being no further items properly on the agenda, Council stands adjourned until March of 2026.