Citizens' Council Meeting – May 20, 2026

Unofficial Transcript

[Chair Garrett Tomlinson]
May 20th Council meeting to order. I have 1:03 p.m. We think we get started, yeah? Cool.

Good talk. Always. Not a doubt in my mind it's Secretary Ekeberg's fault.

I will invite our Elder Doreen Bergum to open with a prayer.

[Elder Doreen Bergum]
The good God help us, guide us, watch over us. We say thank you.

Amen.

[Chair]
Thank you Elder Doreen. There is a draft agenda before you Council. Look to you folks for additions, deletions, or a motion to adopt.

Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Shannon Dunfield]
Thank you Mr. Chair. Just to clarify, we are approving the agenda each day then?

[Chair]
Correct.

[Representative Dunfield]
Okay, thank you.

[Chair]
Is there a motion to adopt the agenda then?

[Representative Dunfield]
Oh, sorry, yes.

[Chair]
Thank you Representative Dunfield. Seconded by Secretary Blatz. Further discussion on the agenda?

Seeing none. Any opposition? The agenda is so adopted.

That takes us into the President's welcome. Madam President, the floor is all yours.

[President Andrea Sandmaier]
Thank you very much Chair. I just want to say good afternoon everybody. I want to welcome all of you to all of Council and all of our citizens who may be watching on our livestream to our Citizens' Council meeting.

Hope you're all safe and staying warm in this lovely May that we're having. I want to thank Elder Doreen Bergum for opening up our meeting today in such a good way and grounding us today in the work that we have to do. So thank you so much and thank you for being here.

We've added this additional half day meeting to accommodate a substantial agenda including important items that were tabled at our previous Council meeting. But before we begin, I am pleased to announce that Women's Representative Gabrielle Blatz has officially been appointed as Provincial Secretary of Women, Gender, Equity and Inclusivity. Gabrielle was elected by our citizens as Women's Representative and I know she will bring strong leadership and passionate commitment to advancing this important work.

So again, congratulations Secretary Blatz on your new role. I also want to acknowledge Secretary Lavallee for her dedicated service in the gender equity portfolio. Secretary Lavallee has made significant contributions to advancing gender equity and inclusion within our government and today she's actually in Regina representing our government at the Federal, Provincial, Territorial, Indigenous meeting on human rights.

So she unfortunately can't be here today but I know that she is representing us well and I'm grateful for her service. I also want to say last night, wow, we launched the first stop of our Kitchen Party Tour here in Edmonton and I want to thank everybody who was able to make it and who stayed and who danced and took pictures with the photo booth. It was a great night, lots of citizens out and even though the temperature wasn't the best, everyone had warm hearts.

So that was, it was really nice. So I just thank you guys so much for coming. This initiative is about bringing our citizens together to celebrate Métis culture, music and community and our citizens have really asked for these things to happen.

For us to come together, to connect, to celebrate who we are as Métis. In today's atmosphere, just like sadly we've had to overcome this for a long time, the, you know, people not knowing who we are as Métis people and it's very important that we stand proud in our identity, in our culture and be proud of our history and that's what this tour is about and it's going to be a wonderful summer bringing that out to community. I'm really looking forward to being able to do that for citizens along with our Secretary of Harvesting and Culture, Grant Lacombe.

So yes, for many years citizens have told us they want more opportunities for cultural programming and chances to connect directly with our government in their own communities. So this is, this is going to be a great thing and I just want to also, while I have

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

you all here, last weekend we were in Calgary for our second annual Métis Games Festival and I just want to thank our team of staff and volunteers who put the Métis Games together. It was a packed house, lots of very happy kids having a lot of fun and there was, yeah, lots of fun to be had and I just want to thank, I don't know if Ryan's still here, right?

Ryan is still here and who else was on that committee but Taylor, which I don't know if he's here yet, but it was a large group of our staff who organized it and volunteered last weekend. So I just want to give them a round of applause as well. It was lots of fun.

I even played a little beanbag. It was quite embarrassing. So it is, the Kitchen Party is a practical low-cost initiative that allows us to strengthen community connections while celebrating who we are as Métis people and I encourage all of you as elected officials, both citizens Representatives and district captains and Councillors, to attend the Kitchen Party, a Kitchen Party event closest to your district.

Come out, bring citizens, it's going to be lots of fun. I ask you to promote it in any way you can through your social media, through direct outreach and your regular communications with citizens. Post it on your social media, call your citizens.

Your participation will help ensure these events are a success across Alberta. On Monday, I met with Minister Rebecca Alty while she was in Edmonton and we had a productive discussion about the importance of maintaining momentum on our modern-day treaty negotiations with Canada. Minister Alty reaffirmed that Canada remains committed to advancing our treaty process and she indicated that she will make every effort to attend our upcoming citizens gathering in Slave Lake.

Cross our fingers. We also discussed Prime Minister Mark Carney's recent announcement regarding the major nation-building and infrastructure priorities, including potential pipeline development. As many of you know from the correspondence you have been copied on, we have been monitoring this file very closely.

I made it clear to Minister Alty that we support efforts to build a stronger Canadian economy and the federal government's broader vision to build Canada. However, this cannot come at the expense of our nation's rights. Our rights, jurisdiction and interests must be respected.

We must be consulted meaningfully and in good faith. We must have a seat at the table when decisions are made about projects that affect our citizens' rights and we will continue to hold Canada to that standard. We have a significant amount of business here before us today and of course tomorrow as well, so I'm going to now turn it over to the Chair to guide us through the agenda.

[Chair]
Thank you, Madam President, for the detailed welcome. Any questions for the President on her welcome? Seeing none, we will move into the next item of business, which, Madam President, is also your item of business with the Chief Electoral Officer introduction.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[President Sandmaier]
All right, so exciting, an exciting day today. So Chief Roxanne Carriere is here to join us, so I invite her to come up and I believe at this mic. So I'd like you all to welcome our new Chief Electoral Officer, Roxanne Carriere, and she's going to come up and introduce herself.

And then what I'll get maybe once Chief Carriere introduces herself, then we'll go around the table and everybody can introduce them, introduce yourselves, and tell, of course, say what Métis district you're from or constituency or provincial position. And yeah, one great thing about your district. Everybody got that?

[Chair]
The floor is all yours, Chief Carriere.

[Chief Electoral Officer Roxanne Carriere]
Thank you, Madam President. I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to step into this role. I'm super excited about it.

I come from a background for about 12 years in municipal government and my love of elections led me to seeing this as an opportunity that I wanted to explore, especially to be able to work with my nation. So I'm super excited about that and excited to work with all of you.

[Chair]
Thank you, Chief Carriere. So per President's suggestion, we will just go around the table. We will start with Representative Dunfield.

If you want to introduce yourself, your district, one great thing about your district, and then I won't call on each of you, just carry along if you don't mind.

[Representative Dunfield]
Welcome. It's such a pleasure to meet you. I'm Shannon Dunfield.

I am the citizens Representative for Grand Prairie Métis district. One great thing about my district is, you know, honestly is Elder Angie Carriere who we lost in January. She was the backbone of our Métis community and the honor I have is to be able to carry that forward.

Thank you.

[Representative Joseph Tremblay]
Hi, my name is Joseph Tremblay. I'm the Citizen Rep of the Athabasca Landing. We are kind of new to this thing because we belong to zone one at one time and we're kind of new to this and we've got some elders in our community that are willing to get involved with us and help us through this thing and I think that we're going to go to good places once we get everything organized in our community.

Thank you.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Representative Catherine Schnell]
Good afternoon. My name is Catherine Schnell and I'm the Citizens' Representative for the Medicine Hat Métis district and if I had to pick just one thing that is amazing about Medicine Hat is, I don't know if any of you know this, but we are the sunniest city in all of Canada. We get the most sunlight and we also have probably, look at a huge amount of volunteers and Métis citizens that work together to actually bring a lot of cultural events and I've been very proud to be part of our, my Métis community for 30 some odd years.

So yeah, thank you and welcome aboard.

[Representative Trevor Ward]
Tansi, my name is Trevor Ward. I am citizen Representative for the Rocky View Métis district. I will say one of the, I guess, best things about our district, definitely the people, but also that we have Banff National Park in our district and it is the most visited national park in Canada.

So.

[Secretary Barry Dibb]
Hi, I'm Barry Dibb, Citizen Representative of District 14 and I'm the economic and rural development secretary of the Otipemisiwak Métis Nation and for our area, we are the, not the first, but the second longest daylight in the summer and the quickest to get darker in the Peace Country. Bobbi's got me beat and we have 1680 citizens there that would be happy to see you and the best part of the whole thing is I get to sit between Trevor and Grant. So great.

[Secretary Grant Lacombe]
He doesn't hold the bar very high. Welcome, Roxanne. I'm very proud of you and Roxanne is my cousin and I'm proud of where she is in life and everything she's accomplished.

I am the Citizens' Rep for Lesser Slave Lake Métis District 21 and the culture and harvesting secretary. The best thing about District 21, I guess, is we hold culture very high over there. That's what I like.

We do a lot with the youth. We do a lot with the senior, the elders and stuff like that. So that's probably my favorite part of District 21.

So welcome, Roxanne.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Very good. Welcome, Roxanne. It's a pleasure to have you here.

My name is Lisa Wolfe and I'm the Representative for Lac-Saint-Anne Métis District 8, which is just west of Edmonton. I'm also Secretary of Education, Training and Veteran Affairs and I really enjoy being here on this Council. One of the things that are amazing for District 8, Lac-

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

Ste-Anne, is that we are a historical community, long-standing historical community within Alberta and a lot of people had transitioned from Lac La Biche to Edmonton and out to Lac-Ste-Anne.

So for us, we have long, deep roots there and I'm Métis on both sides of my family. So for me to be in a historical area for me was very important. So that's a great thing about Lac-Ste-Anne.

[Secretary Brooke Bramfield]
Hi, welcome. My name is Brooke Bramfield. I'm the Citizens' Representative for Fort McMurray and the Provincial Secretary for Children and Family Services.

And there's so many amazing things I can say about McMurray Métis but of course the people, the citizens, the amazing McMurray Métis team and the District Council. We're always so busy up there. We have so many amazing knowledge holders and artists and we also have our Métis Fest coming up on June 27th and 28th, if anyone would like to come.

[Secretary Valerie Quintal]
Hi, my name is Valerie Quintal. I'm a Secretary of Housing and Infrastructure for District 18, Conklin. And one good thing about our community is we are recent, we have been working to solve homelessness in our community.

So we are working on a big housing project to do that. And we are a small community but strong Métis history. Thank you.

[Secretary Aura Leddy]
Good afternoon. My name is Aura Leddy. I'm the Citizens' Representative for the Edmonton Whitemud District as well as I have the honour of serving as the Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management.

And one of the best things about the Edmonton Whitemud District and being south of the river here in Edmonton is just how many green spaces we have to gather, to enjoy. And honestly, I'm going to steal it from my colleague, Sarah. The river valley is divine and such a wonderful place for folks to get on the land while still being in an urban space.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Thank you so much. Welcome. My name is Sarah Wolfe and I'm the citizens Representative for Fort Edmonton Métis District 9.

And I'm also the Secretary of Records for the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. One of the things that I love talking about Fort Edmonton is that we have the most registered citizens in all of the districts in Alberta. And it's very apparent to the diversity and the richness in culture when you go to events and even just the parks and yes, the river valley.

We are very full of life here and there's always something going on. So that's what I would say is the best about my district.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Elder Doreen Bergum]
Whoops. Doreen Bergum. I'm a Métis elder and a Métis cultural teacher.

The one thing I enjoy the most is teaching the teachers who we are and to treat those children accordingly. I was teaching a couple years ago in a trapper's tent at the Red Deer College and one of the teachers came up to my tent and she said, I'm so excited. She said, I just want to learn about the ditch people.

I said, the ditch people? What are you teaching those kids? And I said, get in here. I said, I'll teach you about the road allowance people and then I'm going to jig you out of here.

[Director Tyler Fetch]
Good afternoon. My name is Tyler Fetch. I'm the Director of Intergovernmental Relations for the Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta, a citizen employee as well.

I've been here for, it's going on 12 years in June, but I've had about 15 years experience working in Métis governments. So it's nice to meet you and welcome forward.

[Senior Executive Officer Aaron Barner]
Good afternoon. My name is Aaron. I'm the Senior Executive Officer.

I've been with our government since 2009. I guess for me, I love all the districts. I think they're all great.

But I guess my favorite thing about the Otipemisiwak Government or the Métis Nation is any type of community development that we can do, anything that brings people together, especially young people. And so with all the stuff that we do, I think for me, that's what resonates the most and leaves the longest, the biggest impact. And I think, you know, people have gotten into the idea of, hey, we got programs and we got services and those type of things.

But they need to remember that civic participation and that is equally important and that community development and especially with the youth is equally important too. So those are some things that I'm passionate about. So nice to meet you.

[Chair]
We'll let the President go last. We've had the chance to meet already, Chief. As a reminder, my name is Garrett Tomlinson.

I've been with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government a little over eight years. I'm the Senior Director of Self-Government and also have the honour of serving as the appointed Chair for the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. I live in Barry's district in the Peace River Métis district, which is by far and bar none the prettiest place on the planet and the prettiest Métis district.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

And I challenge anyone to prove me wrong.

[Acting Clerk Lindsay Henderson]
Hello, it's nice to meet you. My name is Lindsay Henderson and I'm the Acting Clerk of Citizens' Council.

[Chief Electoral Officer Carriere]
Now, this is going to be awkward because I've got to turn to look at you.

[Secretary Jason Ekeberg]
I am Jason Ekeberg, Lac La Biche Métis District Citizens Representative, as well as the Secretary of Treasury for the Otipemiwisak Métis Government. I come from Lac La Biche and I can say that it's a very historical community, like some of us had brought up already, but it's very passionate about the people.

That's one of the things I can say about Lac La Biche and it's very, there's a lot of passion and a lot of people who hit home with it. So it's nice to meet you.

[Secretary Joe Chodzicki]
Good afternoon, Roxanne, and welcome. Joe Chodzicki, Red Deer Métis District Representative and Secretary for Citizenship and Registry. There's so many things we could talk about the Red Deer District.

We could go on, we could have a conversation all day about that. But one of the things I'm going to talk about is Tail Creek Campground. Back in the day, that was the home of 2,000 Métis during the winter.

So it's an exciting place. It was an exciting day. The days were exciting back then in the winter for the Métis people.

So welcome.

[Secretary Gabrielle Blatz]
Welcome, Roxanne. My name is Gabrielle Blatz. I'm the Provincial Women's Representative and newly appointed to Cabinet as the Secretary of Women, Gender Equity, and Inclusivity.

I live in Joe's district, so I live in Wetaskiwin, so District 3. My favorite thing about the whole province is probably what I got to see at the Métis games on the weekend, which was we had the fiddlers playing and all the kids came out onto the dance floor and started teaching each other how to jig. And I think that that really speaks to who we are as people.

It speaks to who we are as a community and bringing each other in and teaching each other and how much that lives within all of us. And you don't have to go very far to find a family member or find a new family member. Everybody's your cousin.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

Elder Doreen is my cousin, and she taught me how to jig when I was a kid. So it's cool to be in these spaces, especially coming from municipal government is coming to these spaces where almost everybody in the room is related to each other somehow.

[Secretary Nelson Lussier]
Welcome, Roxanne. My name is Nelson Lussier. I'm the Citizen Rep for Calgary Nose Hill District 5 and also Secretary of Justice.

And I'd like to say what's great about Calgary or my district is I'm going to say both districts, 5 and 6, we work well together and we do a lot of things together. And we have about 10,000 citizens in the Calgary area, I think. And we have a lot of great elders and knowledge keepers that we can always have counsel with and chat with.

Everybody helps us a lot. So thanks.

[Secretary Kaila Mitchell]
Hey, my name is Kaila Mitchell, and I'm the Citizens' Representative for Jasper House and the Secretary of Health, Wellbeing and Seniors.

I'm going to argue with everybody at this table. I have the most beautiful district between Grand Cache and Jasper. I have you all beat.

And we also have a long history in the park. That's very interesting once you get into it. But good to meet you and welcome on board.

[Representative Cindy Moore]
Welcome, Roxanne. My name is Cindy Moore. I'm with District 22 in Wabasca is where I live.

And to pick just one thing about our community, I'm there. It's a beautiful, beautiful wilderness area where if you were interested in harvesting, whether it's berries, medicines, animals, we have just a playground for the wilderness. And if you love to quad, if you love to camp, be outdoors, this is where you would like to visit.

It's quiet, yet there's lots of bears. There's trappers that have trap lines with cabins. It's it kind of almost takes you back to the old days when you see some of these things.

That's amazing. So but once again, welcome. Nice to meet you.

Welcome. It's great to officially meet you.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I look forward to meeting you closer and on a little more informal of a basis where we can chat and get to know each other better. My name is Bobbi Paul-Alook, I am the Citizens' Representative for the Fort Vermilion Métis District, District 15.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

And I absolutely love my community. My home community is Fort Vermilion. It's recognized as one of the two oldest communities, and it's a Métis community, one of the two oldest Métis communities in all of the province.

So the oldest communities in our province are actually Métis communities. And we share that title with Fort Chipewyan as well. And we were founded in 1788.

So that's an interesting fact. I think by far my favorite thing about my community is the strong sense of community, sense of knowing who we are, and sense of resilience and coming together. Just like many other rural northern communities, we've faced a lot of challenges over the years.

And there is honestly no place I would rather be if I was to come up against hard times or need a helping hand. So I think that's my favorite thing about my community. We also are right along the Mighty Peace River, and it's awfully beautiful as well.

We call it God's country.

[Representative Darryl Campbell]
Tansi. Hi, I'm Darryl Campbell. I'm the Citizens' Rep for the Foothills District 1.

I've got to disagree with you because we have the God's country in southern Alberta. We have the wind, and it just keeps drying out and drying out. So if you guys have any moisture, you can set it down.

So that's all I got to say. Thank you and welcome.

[Chair]
We'll go online. Representative L'Hirondelle

[Representative Alfred L'Hirondelle]
Good morning and welcome. My name is Alfred L'Hirondelle. I'm the Citizens' Rep for District 11, which is St. Albert. We're the second largest district in the province, and probably one of the oldest districts too, is for the Métis, or the ones who actually originally started the St. Albert when we were in here. So we have lots of history all around St. Albert that is becoming quite apparent. And we've got lots of involvement with lots of our community members that are helping out.

And so we have a great area. We actually kind of circle all of Edmonton, and that is kind of an interesting layout. So we've got all different aspects, even with Elk Island in our area and that.

So we have lots of interesting stuff and lots of culture to be explored and to be happening in District 11. So thank you.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[President Sandmaier]
And I'm Andrea Sandmeier, President of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. I currently, my primary residence is in Cold Lake, Alberta. I love this friendly competition.

How do you know when you're Métis? Like you know when you're Métis this is going to happen, where we're going to be saying our district is the best. But I think that all of the districts are wonderful, full of wonderful citizens, people who are proud to be Métis.

And we're very proud that we have two of the oldest Métis communities in our province in the homeland. Very proud of that. And yeah, I live in Cold Lake.

I was raised in Stony Plain. So I've lived in a few different, a couple different districts. And I'm just proud to be Métis and proud to sit at this table.

Thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you, Madam President. Final words to you, Chief Carriere. Otherwise, we will let you be on with your day.

[Chief Electoral Officer Carriere]
I just want to thank you guys for making me feel welcome. So my anxiety is a little lower than it was when I first came in. And I have great plans for helping with citizen engagement, voter engagement, try to increase our voting percentage.

I think we've got a great base to start. And I'm really looking forward to working with all of you. Oh, and I should probably say that I'm from District 8.

[Chair]
Right. Very good. That disposes of agenda item number five. And that takes us into the minutes of the April Citizens' Council meeting, April 23rd.

I will turn the floor over to the Secretary of Records to introduce your minutes.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Good afternoon. We've had the minutes for a couple days. So if there's anything you guys feel needs to be added to those, just please let me know.

[Chair]
Secretary Bramfield, the floor is yours.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you. Just on page four with the amendments, it was changed to my motion. Oh, yeah, page four.

Be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that the November 2024 resolution briefing note titled Legislative Proposal regarding Comprehensive Review of Otipemisiwak Métis Laws and

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

Regulations be brought back to Citizens' Council at the next meeting for review and discussion. I had said direction and submitted the note to the clerk. So if we can just change it from discussion to direction and then also just because they will need to be corrected on the minutes if they've already been posted to the website.

Thank you.

[Chair]
Madam Clerk, you've captured that. Very good. Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. There's a couple of things. So on the March 18th meeting minutes, I do I did notice that it is in the chair's report, but I do think we need to reflect that in the March 18th meeting minutes, there was a request to move the Constitution Commission out of camera.

It should be recorded. It should be in the record and currently it's not in the record. And I understand that it is in your meeting minutes, but we should flag that just for the March 18th meeting minutes.

The other…the other clarification I am seeking is on agenda item number eight on page sorry on page six. I flagged last meeting that we are not meeting our legislative responsibilities because that that report was late and this was flagged. And as I as stated, I quoted page 42 section 118 that the report is to come to Citizens' Council and we received it late.

So we need to we need to make sure that when we're in order for us to meet our legislative responsibilities, that those reports are coming to Citizens' Council. And I do recall that it was stated that it was sent to the chair, but it clearly states in our law that it comes to Citizens' Council, not the chair.

[Chair]
So noted. I would say that's not an amendment to the minutes. However, it's commentary on the proceedings.

Do you have any other amendments to the minutes?

[Representative Dunfield]
I think the amendment to the minute would be to flag that we did not meet our legislative responsibilities and we need to make sure that we do flag that and we do put it in the meeting minutes. So we are reminded that we need to make sure that we continue doing that.

[Chair]
I turn it to you, Secretary Wolfe, to speak to that. My sense, having reviewed the recording, is that wasn't any part of the official record of the meeting.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
That's right.

[Chair]
Thank you. So I believe that would fall under commentary. It wasn't an action item or a motion itself, but I'm sure that the administration has captured that somewhere so that we can keep that in mind for the future.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Just a question for clarity's sake on page one towards the bottom of the page for officers and administration attendance. Chair Tomlinson is marked as present. However, he didn't chair that meeting.

The acting chair chaired the meeting. I'm just wondering if it makes sense to record him as present as the chair or he did attend virtually. I'm unsure as to whether or not he attended as the chair or as the senior director for self-government, but just wondering if that needed to be clarified in the minutes.

[Chair]
Secretary Wolfe, do you have thoughts here?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
So he did attend virtually even though he wasn't the chair at the time. He was still virtual and he did come on and speak to a couple things when he was available to while Tyler was the acting chair. So I believe that it is reflective of that.

[Chair]
Very good. Any other additions, deletions, corrections to the minutes? Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just wanting to clarify and have the secretary of records on page 10, it does say there were redactions made pursuant to section 11, specifically schedule A of the regulation sections A and B. Is that correct?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Yes. Would you like me to read what section A and B is?

[Representative Dunfield]
No, that's fine because I think for many of us that is under, it is under the livestreaming regulation and I believe it is under schedule A. Is that correct?

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Yes, it is identified under schedule A of the regulation.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you. With that, Mr. Chair, I do, I do, is there currently a motion on the floor to approve the meeting minutes?

[Chair]
Madam Clerk, is there an active motion? I don't believe so. No, there's not.

[Representative Dunfield]
Okay, so before we move to a motion to approve the meeting minutes, I do read, I do need to share that the livestreaming regulation, particularly the post meeting redaction, clearly states section two, that the chair in consultation with the president or the provincial secretary of records shall cause to be redacted any portions or recordings of the publication if they contain any statement information or records as may be defined from time to time in a schedule to fit the regulation which shall be approved by the Citizens' Council.

Section two reads 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. The concern I'm raising here, Mr. Chair, is that we have the chair, the president, and the provincial secretary of records are the only three that are actually causing redactions and there's no mechanism in this legislation or in this regulation to bring those reduction redactions back to Citizens' Council for approval and that's really important because I do notice in your chair's report that there's something that yourself and the provincial secretary of records are working on but it doesn't really state that there's needs to be approval and I do know that there was at least four or five citizens Representatives during the development of this that raised the concern that there were three people around this table that were redacting information but it was not coming to Citizens' Council for approval of those redactions. So I think that it's important for us as Citizens' Council to direct Cabinet to change or to amend the legislation for a provision to have citizens to have any redactions come to the Citizens' Council before those redactions are made and the reason why so that we can actually approve the meeting minutes in a timely manner.

[Chair]
Okay we're a little far afield of the scope of additions deletions and corrections to the actual minutes themselves though. Secretary Wolfe, do you want to briefly speak to this or would you like us to move on to adopting your minutes?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
I would like to move on to adopting the minutes please and I would make that motion.

[Chair]
So the motion is to adopt the minutes with the amendments so proposed. Is there a seconder to the adoption of the minutes? Representative Dunfield.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Representative Dunfield]
My apologies Mr. Chair. I guess what I'm saying is at this time I would not be comfortable approving meeting minutes where redactions have been made and as a citizens Representative I have not seen those redactions or what what the cause of those redactions were. Secretary Wolfe you should speak to this.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Yes so the redactions are redacted because they are confidential information and the only things that are redacted are those that fall under schedule A that's it. So I'm not too sure why that would need to come forward to Citizens' Council when it is confidential information in which we would then have to go into camera to discuss the redactions for the meeting minutes and that would then take more time especially if we look at particularly some of our past meetings already where there were several redactions that all pertained to confidential information. It is not very efficient so anything that is redacted is specifically regarding to schedule A and meets those um meets the um the redactions for schedule A that's it.

[Chair]
Procedurally the redactions also don't apply to the minutes. The minutes themselves are not redacted. The recording and the transcripts are redacted in accordance with the schedule and the redactions are then reported into the minutes with the reasoning as you pointed out Representative Dunfield.

So the reasoning is in the minutes. It has been reported so these minutes as the regulation stands today appear to be compliant. Do you have further thoughts on this?

[Representative Dunfield]
As stated Mr. Chair the concern that's raised is that the chair the provincial secretary of records and the president are the only only three Representatives or three around this table that have seen those redactions. The rest of Citizens' Council has not seen them. So we have 23 elected officials around this table that have not seen those redactions and I think it's important and I'm not saying right now and I need to be clear I'm not saying that right now we need to review all the redactions at this time.

What I am saying is that we do need to have a mechanism in place in that regulation that allows Citizens' Council to review those redactions before they are redacted from anything. Because right now and I'm going to be blunt we have three we have two Representatives around the table the president and secretary of records and yourself as chair are the only ones that are seeing those redactions. The rest of us are not and there's a lot of information in these meeting minutes that some of us around this table feel should be in there and I respect the fact that it may not that it may not meet schedule a but how can we determine if it doesn't meet schedule a if it's not available to us to see.

As stated before I'm not saying that we need to do it right this minute but I am not prepared to support the motion to approve these meeting minutes until there's a mechanism in place

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

for the other 23 elected officials around this table to see those redactions so we can determine whether or not they're appropriate.

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
Yes I would like to second the motion if there's not a seconder yet and then I'm happy with schedule a and how it how it's very what's the word narrow in in scope of what it's what what is being redacted. My biggest concern is with having audio visual recordings is the issue of liability should things come out at this table that are confidential especially for staff and I I'm very conscious of what risk that puts our government at and at this time I'm confident in the processes that are here and the narrowed scope of with it's contained within schedule a that abuse has been mitigated in that in that way at this point that I have no concerns and I would I'm happy with the minutes as they are.

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Leddy so there is a motion on the floor to approve the minutes with the amendments. Is there further discussion with respect to the approval of the minutes? President Sandmaier.

[President Sandmaier]
Two things I think that everyone should maybe just take a look at schedule a and I can read it to you if you if you like but I can say this that we can take your comments under advisement Representative Dunfield and bring it back to Cabinet for discussion. Regulation again is it is the Cabinet's responsibility to develop regulation so we can take it back to Cabinet and discuss what you have brought up. It is not relevant to these minutes though and holding the minutes up is I just think it's we're we have a lot on our agenda and it's just holding the minutes up with something that we can discuss at Cabinet.

[Chair]
Thank you President Sandmaier, Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you I understand what you're saying President Sandmaier but I do need to reiterate again that it is Council that directs Cabinet and I'm prepared to make a motion that Council directs Cabinet to amend the regulation to include a provision to bring the redacted information back to Citizens' Council before approval before they're before those those those are present presented to us.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Thank you I am just speaking in in support of actually passing the the minutes as presented or as amended however I do want to acknowledge the the request that Representative Dunfield has made. We do have a motion on the floor and maybe that can be considered afterwards. I also want to acknowledge her concerns regarding the decisions around why things are are redacted.

We have not so very historically like in in just the the past few months classified topics as confidential when in fact they haven't been for example we had an in-camera session for our constitution commission that we've now since moved for it to be out of camera as we've realized that it didn't need necessarily need to and similarly for our elders advisory Council was in camera out of camera and and so I can see I can see why she's bringing that up and and I want to acknowledge that but I would like to move forward with the minutes.

[Chair]
Thank you Representative Paul-Alook. Secretary Leddy?

[Secretary Leddy]
Yeah and I agree with moving forward with the minutes at this point. I just want to also point out in the constitution at section 16 18 the president and provincial secretaries shall conduct the affairs of the Otipemisiwak Métis government in a matter consistent with this constitution any Otipemisiwak Métis government laws direction received from Citizens' Council and the proposals of the citizens gathering but it doesn't rely when I read that it doesn't rely specifically on just all of those being present at the same moment to restrict what how Cabinet is conducting the affairs and additionally we have oh I have too many pages in front of me with the purpose goals and responsibilities of the Otipemisiwak Métis government in section 13.1 it is to advance the social cultural and economic well-being and to advance address secure and protect the rights interests and claims of Métis nation within Alberta and the communities of its territories and I think when it comes to this I just sit here going we can I'm happy to have that discussion come by Cabinet to review perhaps a process review the process to check for any issues but at this point holding up our minutes really takes away from advancing the needs of our community right now and what the constitution says is our goal and purpose.

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Leddy. Representative Dunfield, can this be the final word on this?

[Representative Dunfield]
Absolutely Mr. Chair I understand what's going on and and I I guess what I would say then is in in response to Representative Paula Look I am prepared to support these meeting minutes moving forward but I would like to make the motion after the meeting minutes to have Cabinet or to have Council direct Cabinet to amend the regulation and I just want to clarify really quickly that you know the comment that was made that I'm prepared to go forward to have my Cabinet do that I think it's our Cabinet so after this approval of these

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

meeting minutes Mr. Chair I would make that motion as I shared earlier and I'm happy to do that after after the vote to approve these meeting minutes.

[Chair]
Okay is there any further discussion with respect to the minutes with the amendments proposed, is there any opposition to the motion to adopt the minutes as amended? Seeing none, the minutes are so adopted. Representative Dunfield the floor is yours.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you Mr. Chair I would like to make the motion that Citizens' Council direct Cabinet to amend the livestreaming record regulation to provide a provision for Citizens' Council to review any redactions before those redactions are made.

[Chair]
There's a motion on the floor I see the clerk feverishly typing this do you want to repeat it one more time Representative Dunfield?

[Representative Dunfield]
Sorry a motion to for Citizens' Council to direct Cabinet to amend the livestreaming regulation to improve to provide sorry I've said it a few times my apologies a motion for Citizens' Council to direct Cabinet to amend the livestreaming regulation to include a provision for Citizens' Council to review any redactions before those redactions are made.

[Chair]
Do you have that Madam Clerk? Is there a seconder to the motion as read? Representative Moore seconds the motion is there any discussion in respect to this motion?

Seeing none is there any opposition to sorry Secretary Bramfield, please go ahead.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you yeah and I think it's probably been a few it's been a few well January I think since we passed the regulation and I mean maybe we can just review it now that we've had you know some time with it and we've started livestreaming our meetings. I know one thing that citizens have brought up to me lots is that they want to watch the livestream right away. I know that happens with other with other Councils is that it's basically posted as soon as it's done so that the timing the timeline to get to watch the livestream is 30 days right now and that's a long time.

The other thing is, I do think that there can be more information of why or when sections are redacted that Council can be made aware of. I mean we are part of the confidential conversations and whatnot so I mean I think there is opportunity to be able to have more information of why of why meeting of why the livestream recording is redacted but I'll just overall like the timeline for the livestreaming is something that's been brought up to me many times by my citizens so I do have an obligation to say that and I do think that they should come forward before much earlier than 30 days.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Chair]
Secretary Mitchell.

[Secretary Mitchell]
I think Aura had her light on first.

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy, floor is to you.

[Secretary Leddy]
I would be happy with this motion if it was to review the to review the livestreaming and recording regulation to address the concerns that have been raised at the table rather than giving a solution right now. I imagine further discussion with the concerns that have been brought up may give may give us multiple solutions to these concerns and would give us more flexibility to be able to have a regulation that serves our citizens and serves those at this table better but right now I'm not prepared to go along with just one solution being for being directed to Cabinet on a on this regulation.

[Chair]
Secretary Mitchell.

[Secretary Mitchell]
Okay just so I have it clear in my head can somebody please read the motion back to me because I am a little bit confused before I ask a question.

[Chair]
Madam clerk would you read the motion?

[Acting Clerk Henderson]
The motion currently reads be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that Council direct Cabinet to amend the livestreaming regulation to include a provision for Citizens' Council to review any redactions prior to those redactions being made.

[Secretary Mitchell]
Okay so one thing that comes to mind is um we know that citizens want to see the livestream sooner um with our minutes lots of times I think and correct me if I'm wrong we don't necessarily meet the um requirement for having them approved and so I feel like this would delay things um I'm I'm thinking this through as I'm talking so do we have requirements for when minutes are supposed to be posted and livestream is supposed to be posted.

[Chair]
Secretary of records, you seem best positioned to probably speak to that.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
So for the livestream itself it is supposed to be posted within 30 days of the livestream taking place right now we are still working through the actual the process of how to do redactions and really refining that but I do foresee that in the future the livestream recordings will be able to come out faster and faster as every section of the team that kind of goes through the editing and everything becomes more streamlined. As for the minutes here let me just pull up the exact wording one second.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook and then I will raise notes from legal counsel.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Um sorry so for this one I would like to um suggest a friendly edit to add um kind of a piece of what Aura had said into your existing motion um to also capture what Brooke has brought forward um in that the um the livestream regulation be reviewed including um making the amendment um and so that also covers if there's going to be any changes in timelines or anything else to address citizen concerns about um how long they're waiting then that can be done at the same time so that the motion itself doesn't just pertain to that one single aspect that the entire regulation can be reviewed and possibly edited but it it also include it still includes what you have originally said that's no just if you could just add that in there.

[Chair]
Madam clerk do you have a sense of what the friendly amendment might be based on that discussion? I'm just going to chew on the language a little bit uh let's give that moment.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
In the meantime um I just wanted to pull up the exact wording for you Secretary Mitchell um so in the self-government act it says that the records of Citizens' Council to be made public within 30 days of the close of a meeting except for records declared to be confidential under section 43 of this act.

[Secretary Mitchell]
Okay so I think what I was trying to get at is that the more we have to review things and there's been concerns around the table about um timelines of things getting out the more we have to review that will equate to timeline changes and further delays in meeting our legislative requirements.

[Chair]
I think that's it. Thank you. Madam clerk, do we have a sense of what an amended motion might look like?

Almost. Very good. So the note from legal counsel is the motion as it was originally worded is likely out of order because it directs from Council to Cabinet in a manner that deals with the implementation of a note to be made to government law through regulation.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

Council can ask Cabinet to consider amendments they can't direct a specific amendment so that was the note that was brought forward that said with the friendly amendments we will take another view of it and see if that adjusts the conflict.

[Representative Dunfield]
Just for clarification Mr. Chair um with the legal counsel um review is that in alignment with our constitution or our laws because I do believe um both our constitution and our laws do state that Citizens' Council um Cabinet at the direction of Citizens' Council so I just wanted to get that clarification.

[Chair]
Yeah so the provision cited is section 16.17 provides that the president provincial secretary shall form the Cabinet annex and accept in relation to matters assigned to district Councils exercise all executive authority required to oversee the operations of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and implement Otipemisiwak Métis Government laws. Regulation is an implementation function of your specific laws so if you'd like Cabinet to consider amendments that's absolutely within this Council's discretion and you should tell Cabinet to consider amendments. Directing a specific amendment would have to be done through legislation itself.

Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
I would be happy with the motion if it was to consider the amendment.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Um no thank you Mr. Chair so um with that provision uh can we get a the motion read out again um with the word consider and just so I'm clear Mr. Chair who's legal counsel?

[Chair]
So the legal counsel who raised this is in-house legal counsel who is James Henry you find him at the back.

[Representative Dunfield]
Okay so is um Mr. Henry legal counsel to Citizens' Council or legal counsel to administration?

[Chair]
He's legal counsel to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government all of us there is no separation between the two.

[Representative Dunfield]
Okay thank you.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Acting Clerk Henderson]
Okay so I've tried my best to include everything that that has been mentioned here so I've got be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that Council ask Cabinet to consider reviewing the livestreaming and recording regulation to address concerns raised at the May 20th Citizens' Council meeting including adding a provision for Citizens' Council to review any redactions prior to those redactions being made.

[Representative Dunfield]
Just wanting to um then double check with legal is that amendment and that motion itself?

[Chair]
I think if Council's amenable what I'd like to do is take a five minute recess we'll take the motion language back to legal counsel and bring you something back that we think captures and aligns and you guys can go from there so. I appreciate that thank you. Council stands in recess for five minutes.

Okay we've conferred with mover, seconder and gone through the advice from Council. The clerk will re-read the motion just so we have it clearly on the record and we're working with uh our esteemed AV folks to try and get it on the screen for people as well. Madam clerk would you read the amended motion please?

[Acting Clerk Henderson]
The motion now reads be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that Council direct Cabinet to review the livestreaming and recording regulation to consider amendments that would address the concerns raised at the May 20th Citizens' Council meeting.

[Chair]
Very good and it's on the screen there for the folks who are visual learners uh Representative Paul-Alook for resource.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Thank you um so earlier you had quoted 16.17 of the constitution in regards to Cabinet um one clause down in 16.18 it reads that the president and provincial secretary shall conduct the affairs of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government in a manner consistent with this constitution any Otipemisiwak Métis Government laws direction received from the Citizens' Council and the proposals of the citizens gathering. So while this doesn't necessarily mean that every action that the Cabinet takes has to happen at the direction of Council we know that isn't the case um that they do have the authority to as you had mentioned oversee um the operational the operations of the of the Otipemisiwak Métis government. What it does mean is that where there is express direction from the Citizens' Council where that does exist that Cabinet must um act consistently with that direction so um and that's actually in keeping with previous legal uh advice that we have received um on the interpretation of our constitution and um the role uh and relationship between Council and Cabinet.

Just wanted to make that point.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Chair]
Representative.

[Representative Dunfield]
Oh thank you um thank you everyone. I I know this has been a little frustrating and I hope you guys understand where I'm coming from on this is that you know as a citizens Representative we are um we are um it is our job to make sure that our citizens have the right information and I'm just wanting to make sure that we do it properly. So um I do have a quick question and um this is our question for legal counsel included and yes that motion is something that we worked on so but I do want to I do have a question that can we also move that Cabinet work with Council prior to uh Cabinet adoption so we're all included in the process.

So that that question was for you Mr. Henry was um in your opinion could we also include in this motion that Cabinet work with Council prior to any adoption of amendments so that Council is aware so that Council is included in that process.

[Counsel James Henry]
Is this on? Oh perfect. Uh in theory you could request to work with Cabinet but the final decision making lies with Cabinet.

[Representative Dunfield]
So um thank you for that. I think with this um and hearing and Council hearing my concerns and my requests um I would be comfortable moving forward with this motion.

[Chair]
Very good. So uh the friendly amendments then have been indicated as accepted by the mover and the seconder. Is there any further discussion on this motion?

Seeing none is there any opposition to the motion as indicated on your screens and as read by the clerk? Seeing none the motion carries. Cabinet is so directed.

Thank you Council. That takes us into agenda items number seven which are the chair's report. I understand the chair's report from the March 18th uh 19th uh Citizens' Council meeting were tabled to uh sorry the April uh chair's report and May chair's report uh are before you.

The April chair's report having been tabled which is now ultimately subsumed by the May chair's report. So I'll look for a motion from Council to adopt both reports together if that's amenable. Is there anyone willing to move the chair's reports?

Secretary Mitchell. So moved. Seconder?

Secretary Leddy. Is there any discussion to the chair's report? Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

Um thank you Mr. Chair. Just wanting to double check with you. I see that we still have um our meeting dates up to September.

Just wanting to find out if if there's any sorry any further um uh dates that could be presented us for October, November, December. I know it's a bit tough. There's a lot of things going on um so just wanting to clarify that and also um on the um sorry I'm looking at the multiple different pages but I believe oh the rules of procedure ETA is June uh it's March 20th so just wanting to know if we have an ETA for June for the rules of procedure.

[Chair]
We do uh unfortunately the uh the associate director of government policy isn't with us today so I don't have an exact answer for you on the rules of procedure. With respect to the additional Council meetings I will endeavor to try and have that for you by the time Council finishes tomorrow.

[Representative Dunfield]
Okay thank you so much. Appreciate that.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Thank you. So on page eight of ten right down to the yeah right at the bottom there in the report it states that um the proposed transparency and accountability act um is in queue for review following the completion of the privacy information legislation by legal counsel and that this is at the direction of Citizens' Council. However I'd like to um just move forward a correction there. Um there is actually no motion on record directing this action.

Um there is no motion on record directing this action because um this this act never actually made it to a Citizens' Council agenda. Um and I I can explain further if if you'd like um or or we could just accept the correction if you if you'd like me to to explain why I I can.

[Chair]
Go ahead and explain.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Okay so um Council actually didn't direct this action because on May 5th the bill was properly brought forward by a member of Citizens' Council for inclusion on the next meeting um which was scheduled for May 13th. Um on May 8th um the requester along with the rest of Citizens' Council received an email um from President Sandmaier that stated that the the bill was not going to be um placed on the Council agenda and that it was being referred to legal counsel and um department directors for review and consideration uh and that it would be once that the feedback was received from legal counsel and administration it um would be the it would be revisited for the addition of the bill um or any amended version as appropriate to a future Council agenda. So there was actually no um direction from Council received to place this in queue um because it never actually made it before this Council for

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

discussion so there was no direction provided so um that is that is an error there in in the report.

[Chair]
Okay so I'll speak to this. It isn't an error. It is a very synapse uh short synopsis of the view of it and it's because the direction to direct legal counsel to draft the privacy and information legislation was undertaken in March of 2025 which is in advance of this uh proposed bill coming forward.

There is a limited scope that we can apply to legal counsel. We can give them legislation Council directed that we let them entirely draft and lead that legislative process which is the direction that we got as administration. We can't then say okay well they're also going to review this legislation and another and another.

There is a limitation both in cost and in bodies that we can apply to legal counsel. So the privacy legislation is still not complete. You will hear an update on that in your agenda tomorrow uh from legal Council and the progress on that.

That's just the reality of the administration. So it was prioritized by virtue of the order of the motions that Council brought forward and the direction of it coming to legal counsel. So it is correct.

It may not be in as much detail as you would have liked uh Representative Paul-Alook but it is accurate.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Unfortunately that's I'm I'm not referring to the actual process itself um and that that it is in queue after the the um information or privacy and information legislation. What um the incorrect portion of that is which has been prioritized as directed by Council. Um there is no motion on record where Council has made that direction and there is no discussion on record either where that direction has been has been given.

So I I do maintain that the the section the last section of that sentence which has been prioritized as directed by Council that that is in error.

[Chair]
So I'll take that under advisement. Again by virtue of the motion made on March 18th 2025 in respect to the request for privacy or policy legislation directing it to legal counsel to be led uh that is the prioritization of Council. Council made that a priority for legal counsel by virtue of that motion and thus directing it to legal counsel as you requested through that motion.

We undertook that. It is a priority. It may not be the definition that that you would apply to that word um but again I think substantively this statement remains accurate uh Secretary Bramfield.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you. Um yes I I made the motion for the privacy legislation and in the motion I did direct that we work with we work with legal counsel to draft it because uh I mean it's obviously a huge undertaking um and it's very important that we have when we're protecting the the privacy of citizens. Um but I believe in the agenda request that um represents that was sent by Representative Chernow.

It wasn't to legal counsel. It was to Council for review. So it it wasn't directed like my motion directed it to legal counsel.

It it was I think when we received the email uh Representative Chernow was asking that it be added to the agenda for Council's review first.

[Chair]
Correct. There was a question of order that referred it to legal counsel. Legal counsel's waiting to get through their queue to review it.

Again I'm not sure I'm following which portion of this statement is incorrect. Representative.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I think I think what Secretary Bramfield is is kind of getting at you're comparing apples to oranges here a little bit in that she her specific motion that you referenced in March was referring that legis that piece of proposed legislation to legal to be drafted um and the proposed the proposed agenda item from Secretary Chernow for the other um piece of legislation the Accountability and Transparency Act was directed to be added to the agenda for first reading.

So it's not um to to assume that um the March motion which was made two months prior to the agenda item request um properly assumes that it that it takes precedent and that that was a Council direction. Um I think that that's I I maintain that I don't I don't feel that's an accurate description otherwise the the status update is is correct minus um that it was prioritized as directed by Council because the the motion that you're referencing was specifically to as Secretary Bramfield has said um direct that piece of legislation to legal counsel. The request by Secretary Chernow was um to bring it forward as an agenda item for first reading to this Council.

[Chair]
Thank you. Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
Thank you. I I guess I'm confused of what the problem is um because when like I read through the legislation I see that um in the Self-Government Act section 38.1 the president in consultation with the chair must determine the date location anticipate duration and proposed agenda for each Council meeting which is and this gains authority through the constitution at 16.13 um in operation of the Citizens' Council which the Otipemisiwak Métis Government shall maintain a law governing the operations of Citizens' Council. Um what I'm

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

seeing here is kind of I think I would agree with apples to oranges in the sense that we do have a motion that was at this table to prior to move forward with the um legal privacy the privacy and information legislation and then we also had an agenda request.

Uh when I look at this I read it as uh the request from Chernow to bring forward his legislation uh was requiring additional materials which may be which sounds to include um some of legal uh support in that. Um I'm very excited for that to come to the table once we have all the information ready for that but this seems to be two completely separate processes and as I read what is in the chair's report this seems to make sense as um just kind of like where some legislation is in in status right now and I share frustrations and things not going very fast. I have my own legislation that I'm also waiting for legal to work with me on uh and that's been an over I think two years now so um I share that frustration but as I read this I it seems to be accurate to where things are and how I understand how things played out.

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Leddy. Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Thanks um while we're we're quoting legislation um section 49 to 53 of our self-government actually lays out the the legislative process um for this government. Section 49 indicates that legislation can be introduced by way of a motion um with a copy of the proposed bill attached to the motion and then further down section 50 subsection 2 um indicates that after a bill's first reading um under subsection 1a the chair must refer any proposed bill to to the seo um for a complete review of compliance conflict or other interactions with the constitution and any other um applicable OMG laws and a report on that review must be submitted um prior to the the second reading. So we do actually have a process for administration and and legal review typically that process would be after first reading so um I I I'm not um objecting to or um offering a correction for how things have played out but the account that how that happened was at the direction of Council um I I would ask then if if there is um if you could show that there was a discussion or a motion um that would that would confirm that it happened at the direction of Council.

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
Yeah I just wanted to add clarity to uh the self-government act section 49. It's a Representative must introduce legislation by a way of motion with a copy of the proposed bill attached the motion. How I read that is to under or how I read and understand that is that that is talking about the process when we are sitting at this table after the agenda has already been decided.

At this point how I understand the situation is that um Representative Chernow's legislation came as an agenda request. It hasn't hasn't made it to this table as a motion to be

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

introduced as legislation and that agenda setting discretion is held is an authority held by the president in section 38.1 of the self-government act. Um when I specifically read what uh is in the chair's report I read the which has been prioritized as directed by Council to be referring specifically to the privacy and information legislation and not discussing um Representative Chernow's legislation that he had submitted uh as an agenda request.

Um but do we have a mover a seconder on the chair's report?

[Chair]
The motion to approve both the chair's reports uh is before us. Madam clerk has confirmed there's a mover and a seconder.

[Secretary Leddy]
Thank you.

[Chair]
I take your point. I think we've moved far afield of talking about the chair's report specifically and getting into legislative processes which you guys have an entire agenda item for tomorrow. Um so I mean put this all back in your hats uh you guys can debate this to your heart's content tomorrow.

Um that said is there further discussion about the chair's reports themselves? Representative Paul-Alook?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Yes.

[Chair]
Go ahead.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Um thank you Secretary Leddy. I think you you exactly made my point um by indicating that it is the chair and um the president's discretion to um to draft the agenda and approve and um and present the agenda to us and not that of Council and and that was uh exactly what I was intending to to make that correction for that it wasn't direction provided by Council.

[Chair]
Okay. Is there further comment to the chair's reports and the motion to approve them? Seeing none is there any uh opposition to the adoption of the chair's report for the April or for the March and April Citizens' Council meetings?

President Sandmaier please go ahead.

[President Sandmaier]
I apologize chair. I do have one comment. So in the chair's report on page eight you um had the chair had put in the number two traveling jamboree with Alex Kusterok um and that on

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

page nine under determination of chair item two would be discussed at a future um meeting and I actually did update everybody um in my president's um opening remarks at our last meeting um and as well as a briefing note um was sent out.

Thank you.

[Chair]
President Sandmaier are you referring to the May 20 report of Citizens' Council or the one pre-April?

[President Sandmaier]
April.

[Chair]
Okay. So at the time of the writing of the April report I think that was accurate. It was directed to that meeting where you spoke to it in your president's welcome.

So the future meeting it refers to is the meeting that you were in and then in the May 20th report it shows it is completed. Sorry. No.

Very good. Any further discussion? Any opposition to the motion to adopt the chair's reports as presented?

Seeing none. Motion carries. Chair's reports are so adopted.

Thank you Council. We are at that point in our agenda where it is time for a break. Council do you want to continue?

Do you want to take a break? Do you folks need to get up? I'm seeing some people say continue.

Everyone wants to carry on. Very good. That takes us to agenda item number 8a which is under unfinished business.

I will look to the events manager to join us at the table and present on the proposed revised annual citizens gathering gas card guidelines. Taylor the floor is all yours.

[Events Manager Taylor Masters]
Hello everyone again. So you'll have the motion in front of you which is be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that the proposed changes on the citizens gathering gas card policy be accepted and implemented for the 2026 citizens gathering. So based of all of the feedback that we've heard we did get some research together and we did look at the numbers from the last, I have the last three citizens gatherings and the AGA before them based on the numbers and just kind of looking at how many solid people like that come repetitively.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

So the highest attending district was actually Conklin Métis district with 25. Then we had St. Paul with 17 and Fort Edmonton with 15. And these are people that have come for multiple years in a row.

It's not necessarily saying that these are the highest attending but these are the people that come year and year again. And this does exclude staff members so please note that numbers are a bit inflated because staff do attend from their district. So with all of this information we have come to a recommendation which is our following amendment would be gas cards will be available for two hours from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday of the citizens gathering. 500 will be available on each day. Gas cards will be distributed on a first-come first-served basis. And all radiuses will be based off around trip from citizens physical distance or physical address only.

Those traveling between 150 kilometers to 349 will receive $50 gas card. Those traveling between 350 kilometers and 549 will receive $100 gas card. Those traveling than 550 kilometers or those traveling between 350 to 549 will receive $100.

Those traveling further than 550 will receive $150 in gas cards. And that is the amendment.

[Chair]
Questions? Secretary Blatz go ahead.

[Secretary Blatz]
Thank you very much. Thank you for the report Taylor. I was really excited to see a lot of the comments that we made during the last meeting when this was brought up were also included in this.

I think back in March I did mention that it's a financial burden for people to drive and that was back before the gas prices skyrocketed. And so I think now more than ever people definitely need this and so I'm excited that it's now round trip and that there were some increases to what people get as well. I've had two separate families reach out to me that were talking about how they'd like to attend the citizens gathering but they were worried because they know how bad gas prices are right now.

And so I was able to tell them that this was on our agenda as something that we're looking to approve. And so they were they were excited to hear that there was gas cards available. So this is helping people attend which is really exciting.

So thank you for all the work on this.

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Blatz. Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]
Yeah thank you for that presentation. This is a tough one we'll never probably ever get right or get credit for. But I just want to know how soon this can get out to the people that are

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

planning on coming and so nobody's saying well I didn't know about it or is it going to be said at the gathering also you know in the morning that kind of thing so we can get all that information out to them and let them make their own decisions.

[Events Manager Masters]
Yeah so there will be announcements made during the gathering for sure saying that gas cards will be available these are the times all of that. In addition to this we do have a quite comprehensive communications plan with social media, bi-weekly newsletters, all of that. The main thing with the gas cards is we will be publishing an RSVP and we've done this for the past two years and this helps us know how many gas cards and what the numbers look like.

So when we do publish the RSVP and if the gas card amendment is approved we'll be able to publish this quite soon. And when that is approved and published citizens will be able to see if they do qualify for a gas card and what amount they would qualify for so they can better plan their trip.

[Chair]
Thank you. Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
This is awesome. I was very excited to see it come across our table and I'm very happy with where it sits. I think this addresses a lot of the concerns citizens have brought up to me while also being something that just eases the burden of participating in civic duties.

This is not totally related in the sense that I really loved the data that you brought forward with this and this might be more for when we have when we're kind of reviewing after citizens gathering. It'd be quite interesting to have information looking at attendance from which districts just to see what we can also do as Citizens' Council to engage our citizens in our districts to attend citizens gathering. It's just kind of an information spot moving forward but definitely not a today thing.

I'm just being a data nerd.

[Chair]
Thank you.

Secretary Bramfield.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you. Yeah just with the graph you provided and in the briefing note it says 145 regular attendees. However I know that we typically have six to eight hundred or even when we're in Edmonton I think it was almost a thousand citizens in attendance.

So is this the number of how many citizens access gas cards or because you also mentioned the past three years but this is only showing one table.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Events Manager Masters]
Oh sorry the full sheet may not have printed out then because it was bottom tabs for the past three years. However so the main number that you're looking at is the number of people that have attended across the years. This does not include staff members and this does not include Council members I believe.

So it's citizens that aren't hired or employed by the OMG that have attended for more than one year I believe.

Okay but how many citizens in the past three years have access gift cards? I guess I'm just I'm like it's good to know that 145 of the citizens are coming every year but I'm just not sure how the how this number would really inform how many gas cards are being used. Like you know I would have when we asked for a cost analysis it would have been nice to see you know the past three years each year shows where the citizen came from and then we could run a few different scenarios of you know with the with the categories especially I know there was discussion before about creating an additional category if they're you know eight hours away one way.

So yeah I was just a bit confused of how the I mean it's really nice to know that the 145 regular attendees but how many gas cards were accessed each year the past three years the distance they traveled and then running a few different scenarios. However if Council is happy with the proposed the 50, 100 and 150 with a 550 kilometers that's okay I was just yeah I was just wondering where the cost analysis was but thank you.

[Events Manager Masters]
I can also put together a report with the full cost analysis with we've only done gas cards for the past two years starting in 2024 so that's just something to note but it is safe to say if they are from a certain district they would have been able to access a gas card. Last year I believe the number was we gave around a little over 200 gas cards I believe and my apologies I don't have the number right in front of me at this moment so that may be a little incorrect but it was around there for last year for sure I know.

[Chair]
Very good. Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]
Yeah just one final question the RSVP gives you is that just giving you information on kind of how many are gonna want a gas card is that what that RSVP is or because what I'm trying to get at is you may have people when they get to the gathering and they didn't hit the four or six between four and six o'clock they you know they might say I did respond to that already it does that give them the ability to get the card or is that just for numbers?

[Events Manager Masters]
The RSVP is purely for numbers it helps us to better estimate how many people will need a gas card as well as how many people will be attending so we know can inform our caterers

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

and our food vendors how many people we can inform our other vendors how many people will be in attendance and that just kind of helps us build out the event better. If someone they by no means need to fill out the RSVP it's just a way for us to get more information they're not going to be denied a gas card if they don't fill out the RSVP and filling out the RSVP does not give them priority to get a gas card.

[Chair]
Yeah can we turn uh Secretary Lacombe's mic back on Colin?

[Secretary Lacombe]
Yeah um so so if somebody asked me that at least I can say yeah that RSVP is for this it's not for solidifying your gas card for you and is that stated in that um yeah is it stated before?

[Events Manager Masters]
Yeah so the instructions and details on the RSVP will be clearly laid out in all copy as we call it and kind of all explanations will be available on that and the purpose of the RSVP.

[Chair]
Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Thank you so much Taylor for bringing this forward. I was really happy to see the change to it being round trip as I know that that was a concern for a lot of the people in my district especially those that live way north in Edmonton. I would be happy to make the motion that 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 as presented.

I would really like this information to get out to our citizens as soon as possible so that they can start planning their trip.

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Wolfe. Secretary Lisa Wolfe I take it you want to second that correct?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
That's correct I was originally going to move it but that's fine thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you uh Secretary Wolfe uh Representative Schnell.

[Representative Schnell]
Hi I was just wondering if we could add one more category for citizens that are traveling over a 1,000 kilometers because there'll be times when it'll be um Representative Paul-Alook's district and other times when it's the farthest southeast corner of Medicine Hat. It

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

won't encompass that many people but it will um give the opportunity for people that do come all the time to be able to go. I already know there's families that aren't going to go.

They can't afford to um with well even with this amount they won't be able to but I would just suggest we make one more category over a thousand kilometers they get maybe one more gas card at least.

[Chair]
Thank you Representative Schnell. Is there any further discussion on that suggestion? Do we have a motion on the floor that would be a friendly amendment then to make that adjustment?

I'll look to the mover.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
I guess I would just want to hear what the logistics of adding that would be um but if Taylor has an answer um for that then I would like to hear that please.

[Events Manager Masters]
Of course um so logistics wise adding one more category all it would do is then further limit the amount of gas cards available to citizens as a whole right. So if we're offering $200 for those traveling a thousand kilometers round-trip that then kind of shrinks down the pool so that there's not as many available gas cards potentially. So that's just something to consider um otherwise I'm more than happy to add in another category that's not too logistically difficult for my end.

[Chair]
Back to you as a mover.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Yeah um just going by the approximate number of 200 gas hard gas cards previously um that you discussed and by having 500 on each day both Friday and Saturday I don't see that being a problem and I think if it's going to mean that more of our citizens can attend the gathering I would not be opposed to that friendly amendment. Thank you.

[Chair]
Secondary thoughts?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
No I agree I think like I said the rationale that 200 right now is what we have for gas cards yeah it might shrink a little bit but considering the amount of people and the times a year that we change our gatherings from whether it be Slave Lake or down to Calgary or back to Métis Crossing I think it will even out for those people that are traveling long distances.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Chair]
Okay I will read an adjusted motion then be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that the proposed changes to the annual citizens gathering gas card guidelines including the changes advanced by Citizens' Council be accepted and implemented for the 2026 annual citizens gathering. Everybody good with that? Okay any opposition to that motion?

Motion carries with those changes administration is so directed thank you Taylor for that. That takes us into agenda item 8b which is the service standards for the processing of citizens payments. Secretary Mitchell I believe this is your agenda item.

[Secretary Mitchell]
Hi everyone this was in your Council packages last time we didn't quite get to it I wasn't able to attend and help bring this forward but for I'm assuming that you guys have read it but for the benefit of citizens and people who may be watching online I will do the painful job of reading the whole thing out for you guys okay. And just so you know this this came this motion came about in response to questions and feedback received from citizens on reimbursement timelines for some of our programs. So it reads whereas the Otipemisiwak Métis Government is committed to operating in a transparent and fiscally responsible manner as established in section 13.2 of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution and whereas citizens who submit invoices expense claims and honorarium requests to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government are entitled to timely predictable and clearly communicated payment processes that reflect the standards of a well-functioning government and whereas clear service standards for citizen facing financial processes serve the interests of both citizens and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government by setting reasonable expectations reducing uncertainty and enabling continuous improvement and whereas section 5 2 of the financial management act provides that the senior executive officer may institute and amend policies procedures and standards regarding the financial management of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and section 54 of the self-government act provides that the senior executive officer may institute and amend policies procedures and standards regarding the management of the operations of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Provided such policies, procedures, and standards are consistent with the Constitution, Otipemisiwak Métis Government Law, and any resolutions adopted by the Cabinet or the Citizens' Council. Therefore, be it resolved that 1. the Senior Executive Officer is directed to develop service standards governing the processing of citizen invoices, honorarium requests, and expense claims, collectively citizens' payments, including a. define processing timelines from the date of receipt of a complete submission b. identify common causes of delay in guidance for citizens on how to avoid or address them c. clear expectations of how citizen payment process works, including submission requirements, review steps, and payment issuance d. frequently ask questions and other plain language resources to support citizen understanding of the process and e. any other standards the Senior Executive Officer considers necessary to ensure citizen payments are processed in a timely, consistent, and transparent manner 2. Upon finalization, the service standards developed pursuant to this resolution shall be published and made accessible to citizens through the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's website and other appropriate channels 3. Administration is directed to

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

track performance against the public service standards on an ongoing basis following implementation and 4. The Senior Executive Officer is directed to report to the Citizens' Council on compliance with the service standards, including a summary of results and any instances of noncompliance no later than six months following the implementation of the service standards and annually or quarterly thereafter.

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Mitchell, is it your intention to make this motion?

[Secretary Mitchell]
Yep

[Chair]
Then is it your intention to keep it as six months and then select either annually or quarterly in that last clause?

[Secretary Mitchell]
I would like some feedback on what would be reasonable, quarterly or annually Pick one or the other and we'll go from there and start a discussion Let's start with quarterly then Start with quarterly I think bi-annual actually might be better Bi-annual?

[Chair]
Bi-annual, yeah Does that mean twice a year? Does that mean every two years?

No one knows It's fine, we'll figure it out together Okay, so we have a motion on the floor I will look to Representative Dunfield seconding

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, I'm prepared to second the motion I do have a question and I'm not sure who can answer this Currently, what is the timeline for our citizens to receive reimbursement?

[Senior Executive Officer Barner]
Generally as soon as possible, but it's typically less than 30 days But if we're moving and talking about service standards It would probably be a service standard of month and after the So if we get something, maybe it's 30 days Is the service standard typically for accounts payable? But in this, if I'm reporting and I'm being held to task I think we'd have to look at something that's more realistic So if we get something say on the 20th maybe Then we're looking at 30 days, then the next month cycle I'm not too sure where we'd land, but it's definitely going to be at least 30 days Right now, generally most things are done within 30 days And certainly there's times where payments are not made in a timely manner Which would be very rare if it's over 30 days But maybe people are waiting a couple weeks And generally there's reasons for that And I think that's the issue that we need to get at Is making sure that the information is provided And we're getting payment out as quickly as possible But I would say generally it's almost always within the first 30 days Of getting completed documentation

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, SEO Barner I think one of the things that we do need to be mindful of And thank you, Secretary Mitchell, for bringing this forward Because I do know that we've had citizens raise concerns regarding the process Especially when they're holding some of these costs on their credit card And it's beyond the 30 days So thank you for bringing this forward As I said, I'm prepared to second the motion And I'm not sure yet if it's quarterly or monthly or biannually yet

[Chair]
Currently it reads no later than six months following the implementation of the service standards And biannually thereafter Secretary Mitchell

[Secretary Mitchell]
So let's go with every six months to make it clear

[Senior Executive Officer Barner]
Semi-annually

[Secretary Mitchell]
There we go, that's what I meant. Thank you

[Chair]
Sometimes we have to let you run on your own Semi-annually thereafter Is a friendly amendment accepted, Representative Mitchell?

Very good Is there further discussion on this motion? President Sandmaier Sorry, I didn't see you

[President Sandmaier]
Yeah, this is great And I think it's always good to have these policies and service standards in place And to make sure that we're communicating them to our citizens Via the website, via newsletter, via us as citizens' Representatives Making sure that we have it in front of us And are able to explain the service standards with confidence In what is in the policy So thank you so much for bringing it forward

[Chair]
Thank you President Sandmaier, Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
I'm also excited by this, to have a resource to be able to direct citizens to So that they can also learn and refer to Instead of having to constantly reach out And then for also us to have to chase answers And trying to get, to make sure we're giving the most accurate information to our citizens This will be very helpful And I just want to thank you for that And I'm prepared to move forward with it

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Chair]
SEO Barner

[Senior Executive Officer Barner]
Yeah, I would just say that where we've run into issues with this where someone's saying, they just think they should get a check within You know, the same day or within a week and we try our best a lot of times, we can But I think the big takeaway from this is just that communication piece That, you know, when you're submitting things You know, it is a standard to expect to wait Usually up to 30 days, we'll try to get it sooner if we can So people know, if you're carrying something, they know they're going to carry it for a while So I think this is great Because once we do get a chance to talk to somebody and say like Hey, you know, we process however many checks, it's not reasonable to get it within the next day They're usually almost universally fine And then when we have issues that kind of carry on Typically when we dig into it, it's because something's been missed Or, you know, it's a process thing that we need to check back on So I think this is really good And then just the communication piece for people to know what to expect Is going to take a lot of pressure off finance, so thank you

[Chair]
Very good, thank you, Senior Executive Officer. So, further discussion on this motion? Does it need to be re-read?

No? Good Any opposition? Seeing none, the motion carries Thank you, Secretary Mitchell That takes us into Agenda Item 8C Which is the Self-Government Department Transition Report .This report was originally advanced on the April 23rd Council meeting, so you've had it in your packages twice now I take it everyone's had a chance to review it. So I will look to Council to see if there are specific questions to the report that the transition team can answer. Otherwise, I'll look for a motion to accept it as presented. Secretary Leddy?

[Secretary Leddy]
Yes, I just have one question when it comes to Edmonton-Whitemud-Métis District I see in the report it says the transition team has attempted to contact The President and Board members of the Central Edmonton Local without success And I'm wondering if that is still the status of the situation

[Transition Manager Nicole Shepherd]
Yes, we have continued to try and contact the President and the Board members, but we have not been successful thus far.

[Chair]
Thank you. Representative Dunfield?

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair And I know this is from last April But I do want to provide an update on Grande Prairie-Métis District So we had the opportunity to meet with Aird and Berlus and

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

Senior Director for Self-Government on May 11th And we had to make some adjustments to our timeline So we will be moving forward with a transition meeting in June For the Grande Prairie-Métis District and once we have that information, I will make sure and share that date and time out

[Chair]
Thank you, Representative Dunfield. Further questions or discussion to the transition report? Seeing none, I'll look for...

Sorry, Secretary Blatz, Thank you.

[Secretary Blatz]
Just a quick question So the St. Albert-Métis District is having their by-election For the vacancy for the Leduc subdistrict but since then, there's been somebody that also resigned. And I was just wondering if there was consideration made to have both elections at the same time for both district Councillors or if we're going to have another vacant seat or if it's just going to be another by-election afterwards. And the reason why I'm asking is just because I'm not sure if people know the cost of elections but the cost of elections are really, really high and so I want to try to mitigate as much as possible the cost of subsequent elections for the same district. Thank you.

[Chair]
So we will refer that question specifically to the Chief Electoral Officer and then connect you to get an answer. Further discussion, questions?

Is there anyone who would like to make a motion to accept the transition report as information? Representative Schnell, seconded by Representative Ward. Further discussion, debate? Any opposition?

Motion carries. The report is so accepted Thank you, Nicole. Okay You want 5 minutes, Secretary Ekeberg? Okay, we're going to take a 10-minute break. We're going to come back to Secretary Reports and then carry on with the day.
Council, I'm inclined to call us back to order and get started If that's okay with you guys. Before we get started on the next agenda item I have Representative Dunfield in the speaking order Thank you, Mr. Chair.

[Representative Dunfield]
I do sincerely apologize But I did forget on the transition update to give an update on Region 6 Is it okay if I share some information? Okay, so I'm just wanting to share with everybody that on May 2nd, Region 6 had a transition meeting where we fully transitioned into The Peace River Territory Development Society and that society is overseen…will be overseen by the three district Councils Of District 13, 14, and 15 Peace River Territory Development Society. Very good.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Chair]
One more step on the self-government journey, well done. Up in the northwest. That takes us to Agenda item number 9A Under the Secretary Reports, which is the Harvesting and Culture Report. But before we start there I think Secretary Lacombe has a request to table one agenda item, if I'm not mistaken

[Secretary Lacombe]
Council, I'd like to request a friendly amendment to today's agenda. I'd like to add the Trapper Survey to tomorrow. The reason being, Anna Ross is not here today and she's part of my team to present that to you so everything else will be presented today.

[Chair]
So Secretary Lacombe moves tabling of agenda item 9B To the May 21st Citizens' Council Agenda. Is there a seconder for that tabling motion? Secretary Blatz seconds and no discussion, no debate. Any opposition to the motion to table? Seeing none, that agenda item is so tabled and we will dispose of it tomorrow and the agenda will find a spot for it. Okay, the floor is all yours Mr. Secretary for agenda item 9A

[Secretary Lacombe]
And go to a happy spot now Go Habs Go! Okay, alright, let's get on it I am not a good reader, but I shot myself in the foot and I wrote two pages. So we'll just get right at it. Okay, good day Council, here's an update on the work that I've been doing in culture and harvesting portfolio In culture with the assistance of Matthew Garneau and Anna Ross. We've had two really good productive meetings with the Canadian Museum of History located in Ottawa. In this initial meeting in March and the other on May 14th, last Thursday, both on Zoom. In the initial meeting I brought up the first time I walked through the museum and particularly the Métis section. Upon finishing my tour, one thing was clear, there was no information on scrip and what it did to the Métis in Alberta. So through Matthew we finally managed to, through persistent emails, to get a Zoom meeting with the museum. This meeting set the tone for good conversation, I made my case with background information and the museum folks understood and agreed that it was missing and should be included. During the second meeting with Katie Pollock, the curator for Indigenous histories and contemporary cultures, it was confirmed that the Métis scrip will be the centerpiece of the Métis section within the First People's hall. Inclusion of the case study map mapping the journey of real Métis individuals and the distances they had to travel In an attempt to redeem their scrip will also be displayed. They also agreed to remove…now this is something that it bothered me to see. I understand representation, but I'll continue. So they also agreed to remove the MMF in favor of a standard Métis flag which it should be, it's Métis across the homeland. This will be a multi-year Development process involving the complete renovation of the First People's hall to better accommodate Métis lived experiences. Another good item that will follow in late 26-27 is the addition of Métis history on the second floor of the museum. Within the Canadian history hall where the possibility for video or recorded materials made by our elders can be interacted by the visitors to hear directly from us about our history. And that's it on that one. That one I'm really proud of, those guys were really receptive on the zoom meetings and we're going to be part of that future history of Métis in the west. Another

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

item in culture...on the culture side is the work being done to rectify the ongoing issues at the cemetery in the Red Deer district. Consultation and committee members are working with Métis citizens to rectify that situation. A little bit of background on that, so there is the cemetery, there is a Métis cemetery and a farmer has pushed a lot of dirt over there into a mound on the cemetery which has a lot of trees growing out of that now. And it was discovered that there's headstones under there in that pile. So for a few extra bushels that's what happened to our cemetery. So there's a lot of I think there's a lot of friction over there with the people that reside close to it, summer lots or something like that. But we're going to push ahead and try to fix that So... This one is another one that it's bothered me a lot. Like my whole life. So on behalf of St. Paul-Cold Lake District Captain Bernie Poitras and his councillors I penned a letter to the town of St. Paul to Métis St. Paul regarding reinstituting the original name of St-Paul-des-Métis and also setting up a wooden Métis cross at the entrance of town to reflect the original history of St-Paul-des-Métis. The letter was read to Council on May 11th, I watched the meeting on the morning of the 12th And there was an odd moment of silence in that Council chambers after it was brought to the table which kind of made me happy. The request was taken as information and by the sounds of it there will be a future meeting to discuss further. There is a so-called Métis cart in St. Paul installed a long ways off the beaten path. It's down towards St. Paul Lake so as you go through St. Paul on Main Street to see that cart, you would have to go probably four or five blocks at least to the south. And it's probably the ugliest cart I've ever seen, it really is. It's made of steel, flat steel, it looks horrible. So I went to the people that made the cart and all that kind of stuff and I said I'm happy you did that but you didn't do it properly. They said well it's going to last forever. I said but that doesn't reflect the Métis cart, it reflects a forever image but it doesn't show our history. When you look at a Métis cart compared to that thing, it's night and day. If you're a Métis person, you sit there and wonder why did you do that. You drive through Athabasca, you go through Buffalo Lake Settlement, they've got big Métis carts there. That's pride when you go there. So with St. Paul, I've got a really good, how would you say it, we have good conversations It's not mean, it's not anything derogatory, I just want them to understand the Métis views. It's our culture. It's somebody else doing that to our culture where we should have our say in it and St-Paul-des-Métis was the original settlement here. So to hear from Elders, People in St. Paul, nobody, there wasn't one person that said leave our town's name alone. They were all for it. All the Métis were for it and I'm not going to stop. Sorry, I lost my place. Okay, a little bit about the background of the town. Founded in 1896 by Father Lacombe who petitioned the Canadian government for a land grant for the Métis to farm and make lives for their families. The colony was founded in 1896. Then in 1909, the community was incorporated as a village. In 1912…and by June 6, 1922, the Métis name was dropped marking another colonial move that still exists in the minds of the present day Métis, it's time we restore our historical significance back in St-Paul-des-Métis through the renaming and the visual aspects of the settlement land. I cannot wait for the life of me. Okay, the other…the last one in culture is I attended two women's fishing days, one in the Jasper House Métis district in Edson and another in the Lesser Slave Lake district where, along with Craig's group, we gave demonstrations on net setting and fish cleaning. Everyone in attendance had fun and learned a few different techniques. I also attended one Rupertsland fishing day in the Lac-Ste-Anne district at Pigeon Lake. We

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

couldn't set a net due to ice conditions but we had fillet demonstrations, knot tying techniques, and at all three events we all ate very well. Lots of walleye, lots of fries. Thanks to Craig and his team. Okay, harvesting. So on March 1st I attended…No, in March I attended the Wildlife Federation Annual conference as a panel member representing the Otipemisiwak Métis Government discussing the cow-calf-moose population declining in certain WMUs. There's quite a few other WMUs too. There were other representatives In attendance including Saddle Lake First Nation, Edson, Alberta Wildlife Federation and APOS. The panel went over well with lots of audience participation and no ignorance shown towards the Métis or First Nations which was really nice. Harvesting manager Craig Letendre is an active participant at these meetings along with Jasper House Métis district captain Terry. The Métis Nation would be part of this initiative as I believe, along with others that this is a no-brainer. I also attended a meeting held in Saddle Lake with Chief Dale Steinhauer and Council. I'll tell you a little funny story there, I walked in there to council and they're all sitting there looking around, and I'm going, where's the chief? Looking around, looking around, I looked at this guy, where's Chief Dale Steinhauer? Tap on the back, she's sitting right behind me. And she heard me, she goes, if you could see your face right now. I said, yeah, I got to admit I was looking for a guy, the Dale thing got me. So she started laughing, it was a good opening. So anyways I'll just keep reading here, it kind of goes into a little bit of that conversation. So I can't find my spot here. Before that meeting started, and I will really recommend if you go to a First Nation and if you're introducing yourself to a Chief and you're going to be part of that conversation, protocol is so important, it puts you in a good place and it puts that leader in a good place too because she or he knows that protocol and they understand why you're doing it. So I presented her with a nice big piece of diamond willow and the first thing that she did, she wants to smell that and she goes, oh, this is like gold. I said, yes, I know I said it found you it's just a little bit of information If you're doing that kind of stuff, it sets you in a good place. This meeting also went well and everyone there agreed that something should be done. I will be making this known to the Métis harvesters that it's important to refrain from harvesting cows and calves in the future until the numbers are at a sustainable count. This will happen hopefully through an email blast and I'll also be mentioning it at the gathering because they have to know you just can't go out there and shoot everything in sight, especially cows and calves. They're so important. The bulls will be important too but right now it's the cows and calves that really need help. Mother nature, lots of snow wolves, all that kind of stuff. They need all the help they can get. So that's going to be a priority for Craig and I's work. So along with Craig we'll be working on a pamphlet that's designed to show the values of cultural harvesting practices. This will be happening this next week so I'll report on the outcome in a future presentation. The Métis Trappers Association is ready to be presented, I'll just put tomorrow there, I'll talk about all the along with Anna. We'll talk about the results and future committee meetings. Finally just a reminder, spring is here and those who gather medicines, there's a lot ready. The birch sap is flowing. The snow is gone so you can get into areas to collect diamond willow fungus or whatever protocols you need. Stinging nettles starting to show up. You can safely pick these without getting stung by the nettles because they're immature up to 12 inches. After that, put on gloves. Morel mushrooms will be showing up, I've been checking for them, I haven't found any yet. If not already. Always 100% Always make sure you know

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

exactly what that mushroom is. Never ever eat a fresh mushroom in the bush. Now this is told to me by I think it's a mycologist or something like that for mushrooms. And this guy's been all around the world, he goes, Grant, I've been to so many hospitals and it's always fresh mushrooms that got me so always cook your mushrooms. Finally, please take your youth out and teach them what you know otherwise it's gone. Thank you.

[Elder Doreen Bergum]
I want to thank Grant for that information. My parents were married in St. Paul des Métis May 3, 1937. And they always teased each other. And they got married behind the church. And of course they spoke Cree. And they were always joking about it but I got involved with reconciliation and during COVID and there was a reconciliation meeting at St. Paul. And this Métis woman stood up and said, the Métis and the French built that church in St. Paul but when it was finished, only the French could go inside and the Métis had to go behind the church. So Then I looked in my mom's Bible and sure enough, they went to church behind the church and I can just see them in their horse and wagon all dressed up and going to church behind. So I thank you for that And the cemetery you're talking about Is that Tail Creek? Tail Creek Cemetery?

No? Okay, I'll leave that story Madam President?

[President Sandmaier]
Grant, I just want to thank you so much for all the work that you're doing in your portfolio and your persistence for, you know, visiting the museum in Ottawa and not letting it go. And I can see your passion for our culture, for harvesting and everything that you do, and I just…it means so much to me, the work that you're doing and the work that you're doing at St-Paul-des-Métis, I will always refer to it as that I never say the other word. So I just want to say from the bottom of my heart, thank you for all of the wonderful work you're doing to preserve our culture, to preserve our way of life, our history. This is so important to our nation now especially. We've always had to fight, resist, to make sure that people know who we are as Métis people. Elder Doreen and I were talking about this earlier, it's a constant everyday education. Every day we're educating people on who the Métis are and sometimes it's the same person over and over again that we're having to educate. And the work that you're doing is going to change that for our youth, for Canadians, for Albertans and it's very important. So thank you very much.

[Chair]
Secretary Blatz, Thank you.

[Secretary Blatz]
Grant, you could have stopped at just the Canadian Museum of History and I would have been so impressed. And then you kept going and I think that obviously thank you for everything that you're doing. But also I hope you recognize in yourself the life-changing work that you're doing and we are so lucky to have someone like you on this Council. Because the work that you're doing is not only brave, it's not only important, it is absolutely mind-blowing for someone like me because I look up to you and I think that seeing what

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

you've done has inspired me in what I can do. Because it seems like you just don't see limits. You're just like I believe that this is right and I'm going to push past those limits and that is so incredibly unique to see in someone and I'm really proud that I get to know you and get to work with you. But on a personal note, I want to thank you a lot for talking about the Duhamel Cemetery because my family is buried there. So thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you, Secretary Blatz. Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Secretary Lacombe. And I was going to say, despite the fact that you are a Habs fan, they are the only team left, so I will be cheering for them as well. I just wanted to clarify, so in our package, we actually don't have the report that Secretary Lacombe was reading from. We do have the engagement with the Canadian Museum of History, but we actually don't have the report. Was the report verbal? Or were we supposed to have a copy?

[Chair]
Do you know the answer to this question? I think what's in the package is what was submitted to us, correct?

[Representative Dunfield]
No, I just What I will say is that What you shared with this grant was really important and really key And I would love to be able to, if possible, have a copy of that I think that the work that was done in this space is really impactful And as you can tell By starting the clapping on the one flag issue I have to really commend you on that And that work that you did there Because we need to recognize that there's Métis across this country Not just one from one area So thank you again for your hard work in this And I'm grateful that you were able to share with us today on that piece

[Chair]
Thank you Representative Dunfield. Secretary Dibb.

[Secretary Dibb]
Well Grant, that was pretty awesome. And I have to let you know that mushroom thing blew me away because my elders, or my grandmothers, they perished and never shared that with us. And they knew which ones to pick and I have them in my yard, and me and my wife, we think, well which are the ones in that? Is there any way we can learn them?

Just come and hang out with you? Or do you have another way of sharing your knowledge? Because that is so important because I eat enough that's not good for you, so I'd like to have something that's good for you. Thank you Grant.

[Chair]
Secretary Mitchell.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[Secretary Mitchell]
Hey Grant, I think echoing what Secretary Blatz had said I'm just alone on the museum piece I'm very impressed with the work that you've been doing. I'm excited to see those changes coming to the museum. Everything that followed continued to just make me very proud that you are Secretary of Harvesting and Culture and thank you for all the work that you're doing It's needed and very appreciated, thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Mitchell, Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Yeah, echoing everybody so far, thank you so much for all the work that you've done. I quite remember when you came back from that museum in December 2025 and were telling us about the lack of Métis scrip and how you were really going to push forward and make sure that they got the right information. So I'm really happy to see this and everything else that you've been doing is so impactful for our citizens. So yeah, thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Wolfe. Secretary Lacombe, last word to you. There was a few questions in there.

[Secretary Lacombe]
Let's start with Barry. You probably got a lot of puffballs. Being a farmer, puffballs are really good. Cut them open right down the middle and if there's any blemish in there, toss it away, but if it's pure white, it's good to go. You're a rich man. Mushrooms are…maybe one day we could go out or something like that. No, if there's something I like doing, I've mentioned it before, if something's wrong, that's a good fight and I like it. I have a good friend on that council in St. Paul, an old schoolmate. He might be mad at me now but oh well, he'll get over it. We'll still be friends. But that's something that hit him right in the guts when I sent that letter and I couldn't wait to watch that meeting. I tried getting on live, I couldn't get on. But it's in their thoughts and I'm not letting that go, I just need next moves, that's all. But thank you everybody for your comments, I appreciate it.

[Chair]
Thank you, Secretary Lacombe. It sounds like you have not only the gratitude of your colleagues, but a grateful nation in advancing the rights and interests of the Métis in Alberta. So, is there anyone who would move the update regarding engagement with the Canadian Museum of History be accepted as presented within the harvesting and culture portfolio. Secretary Dibb, seconded by…Oh, sorry, Representative Paul-Alook seconding, very good. Seconded by Representative Paul-Alook. We'll take further discussion, debate, any opposition. Motion carries, the report is accepted. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. The final item on the agenda, reminder has been tabled to tomorrow, will find its way to roughly agenda item number five. That takes us then, President, to your closing remarks for this afternoon. The floor is all yours.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.

[President Sandmaier]
Thank you, Chair, and I just want to say again, thank you all so much Council, for the great discussions today. We continue to move our nation forward and I'm very thankful to be sitting at this table with all of you. I, again, want to thank those that were able to come to the kick-off of the Kitchen Party Tour last night in Edmonton. And the Kitchen Party Tour will be in High River on Friday evening, and then next week we're headed up to Fort Chipewyan. And we're all very excited about going there as well. So I just want to, again, thank you. I want to thank Elder Doreen Bergum for being here today and just sharing with us about your family experience at St.-Paul-des-Métis. You always have such great knowledge and your family history is very important to our nation, so thank you so much. I'm going to call it quits there because we'll be doing this again tomorrow. So thank you all very much and have a great evening.

[Chair]
Thank you, Madam President. I'll ask Elder Doreen Bergum to close us with, Sorry, Secretary Mitchell has her microphone off.

[Secretary Mitchell]
I was going to say motion to adjourn.

[Chair]
No, not yet. Elder Doreen, please go ahead Sorry, Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Just to clarify, what time is start time tomorrow, just for everybody's information.

[Chair]
9 o'clock tomorrow. Go ahead, Elder Doreen

[Elder Doreen Bergum]
Heavenly Father, as we come to the end of our time together, we thank you for what has been accomplished here today. May the matters discussed serve as a catalyst to move us forward and cause us to advance and see processes in place for our Métis families and community. May we leave here recognizing you are the God of all wisdom and you are willing to lead us forward. God bless and keep safe

[Chair]
Thank you, Elder Doreen. Given that we've tabled one item, I'll look for a motion to adjourn. Secretary Mitchell so moves adjournment. The Citizens' Council stands adjourned until 9 a.m. May 21st. We will see you all in the morning. Thank you.

DISCLAIMER: Pursuant to Sections 7(2), 7(3), and 9(2) of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Live Streaming and Recording Regulation, this transcript has been generated but is not an official record of the Citizens' Council meeting.