Citizens' Council Meeting – May 21, 2026

Unofficial Transcript

[Chair]
Okay, we will call the May 21st Council meeting to order. I have 9:06 a.m. and I will ask Elder Doreen to open us with a blessing as is our custom.

[Elder Doreen Bergum]
Bon matin. God, our creator, we thank you for guiding our leaders and elders to finally get recognized as a Métis Nation in our Canada. Today, we walk tall with gratitude and great pride in the spirit and footsteps of our ancestors.

April 14th, 2016, recognizing the Métis Nation as its own culture and identity. Métis people were finally citizens in our Canada. June 27th, 2019, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario, Métis, signed a self-government agreement with Ottawa.

Bless our Métis flag, which symbolizes our ancestry of Aboriginal and European cultures. Bless the infinity symbol that suggests the Métis people will exist forever. Bless our fiddle and our feet so we can continue to share our dance.

Red River jig, duck dance, the reel of four and the drops of brandy. Bless our Métis language, one of 20 indigenous languages to be saved. Bless our anthem and the true story it tells of the Métis people.

Bless our hands, head and heart so we can continue to pass on the art of beading, painting, embroidery, sewing and moccasin making. Bless our sash. Help us to honour and protect our sash for future generations.

Bless our Métis veterans for their service and commitment to our Canada. God our creator, as we move forward, help our children and youth find the balance between past and present, in tradition and spirit. Be proud of your Métis heritage.

Our Métis culture is worth it. Merci and D'etoi Nanan.

[Chair]
Thank you Elder Doreen, that was beautiful. Council before you, you have a draft agenda. Based on the decision of Council yesterday to table agenda item number 9B, which is the secretary report on the trappers survey to today, I propose having that as agenda item 5A under unfinished business in advance of the EKK item.

Is there any other additions, deletions, corrections to the agenda? If not, Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Bobbi Paul-Alook]

Sorry, just a quick addition for agenda item to discuss. I'd like to bring forward the topic of agenda item requests.

[Chair]
Sorry, one more time.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Like agenda item requests, the process for agenda item requests.

[Chair]
Okay, so a discussion item?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Yes.

[Chair]
Put that 9C under representative business, does that work for you?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Sure.

[Chair]
Okay.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Thank you.

[Chair]
You're welcome. Any other additions to the agenda? Seeing none, can I have a motion to adopt the agenda as amended, please?

Secretary Chodzicki, seconder, Secretary Ekeberg. Any further discussion, debate? Any opposition?

Motion carries. The agenda is so adopted as amended. Madam President, that takes us to the president's welcome and I will turn the floor over to you.

[President Andrea Sandmaier]
Thank you, Chair. Good morning, everyone. Good morning to all who are coming on virtually and to citizens who are watching on our live stream.

I just want to thank you again, Elder Doreen, for your opening prayer this morning. Thank you. And for being here with us today.

Thank you very much. I'd like to welcome again all councils as well as citizens. Today, we're beginning day two of a very busy agenda.

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And before we get into the agenda, I just want to quickly reflect on yesterday's meeting. I was really impressed by the efficiency and the collaboration of the discussion that was around our table yesterday. And I was really proud about how we honoured our culture and how that was reflected throughout the discussion.

Particularly through Secretary Lacombe's presentation about his work as the Secretary of Harvesting and Culture. We were all reminded that the work of this government is not only about policies and decisions, but most importantly, about preserving and strengthening who we are as Métis people. As we move through the agenda today, which is even more ambitious than yesterday's, I'd ask council to do so with the same mindset as we did yesterday.

I encourage everyone to continue being concise in their comments, focused in their questions, and mindful of the time that we have available. We have a lot to do today, so with that being said, I will turn it over to the Chair.

[Chair]
Thank you, Madam President. Questions, comments to the President's welcome? Seeing none, we will carry on.

That takes us into agenda item 5A, which is the unfinished business from yesterday. Which yesterday was agenda item 9A under the Secretary's reports.

[Representative Shannon Dunfield]
Sorry, Mr. Chair, do we need to accept the President's welcome as information?

[Chair]
No, because there's no written report.

[Representative Dunfield]
We don't, okay.

[Chair]
Is Secretary Lacombe with us? Very good. Okay.

We will give Secretary Lacombe a minute. Apparently he's fetching his spectacles. So, council will stand in recess for five minutes and we'll await the Secretary.

Entirety of the proceeding is just for you.

[Secretary Grant Lacombe]
I sure appreciate that, thank you. You're very welcome. While I'm in the spotlight, I'll just say thank you to the person who made that offering at my table.

[Chair]

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So, the agenda item we are on, Secretary Lacombe, is your Secretary's report, the Trapper's Survey report, which was forwarded from yesterday into today. So, we'll call back to order and we'll give you the floor to deal with that. Do you need an administrator to come forward also?

[Secretary Lacombe]
I need Ms. Anna Ross up here, please.

[Chair]
Anna Ross, if you're in the room, you can join us at the table. There's some seats and microphones down at that end.

[Secretary Lacombe]
Okay, I'll start with the briefing note on the Trapper's Survey results. So, I'll just read it out. Be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that the briefing note regarding the Métis Trapper's results be accepted for information as presented.

In collaboration with the Harvesting Department and myself, the Consultation Department created and distributed a survey to the Métis citizens and harvesters to learn more about Métis trappers in Alberta and Métis citizens with current or historical family traplines. The survey was designed to provide the Otipemisiwak Métis government with the following information. Who is actively trapping?

Where the Métis traplines are located? Whether traplines were passed down generationally? What issues Métis trappers in Alberta currently face and historically faced?

Whether Métis trappers and junior partners would be interested in the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Trapper's Association? What supports Métis trappers and junior partners would like the Otipemisiwak Métis government to provide? The survey was made available to Métis citizens from August until December of 2025.

536 people responded to the survey. However, only 496 of these respondents were Métis citizens. Those who did not identify as Métis or as citizens were directed out of the survey.

Additionally, 160 of the respondents said that they are not trappers and do not have information about a trapline. These citizens were also directed out of the survey. With these individuals factored out, the survey was completed by 336 Métis citizens who identified as trappers or junior partners or had information about a trapline.

Information regarding the district that respondents reside in was not collected. If desired, a follow-up survey should be distributed to collect more information in this regard. The data collected is intended to inform future Otipemisiwak Métis government programs and initiatives designed to support trappers and preserve the Métis trapping tradition across the province.

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Including establishing a rationale for the Provincial Métis Trappers Association. Information collected through this survey will be securely stored on the Otipemisiwak Métis government servers by the Registry, Harvesting Department and Consultation Department. And shared internally with any personally identifiable information removed.

Any personally identifiable or identifying information has not been included in the analysis to maintain the confidentiality of the respondents. No direct engagement with districts by the Consultation Department occurred. Citizens' representatives, however, we invited to share the survey with the citizens in their district.

An analysis of the survey has been completed. The full analysis is included in Appendix 1. The key findings are summarized below.

The Métis trapping practice is often shared generationally. Many experienced trappers and junior partners described learning to trap from their family members and having trap lines passed on to them. Non-trappers also shared memories of being on trap lines with their families growing up.

Trappers and junior partners described being impacted by industry, activity, oil and gas, and forestry activity were mentioned. Participants described the way that industry activities have used and changed the land that the trap lines are on. This has led to destroyed habitat, decreases in animal presence, and issues assessing trap lines.

Trappers and junior partners have experienced less issues with government and regulations affecting their trapping but still shared some concerns. We heard several concerns about the regulation of oil and gas and forestry companies. Others mentioned that vehicle regulations are sometimes not enforced around their trap lines.

We also heard concerns from respondents about how applying for vacant trap lines has become complicated in recent years and how trapping regulations inhibit the ability of trappers to pass on knowledge and access to trap lines to their families. Many trappers and junior partners explained that they face a significant financial barrier. The cost of trapping is high while the prices of furs are low.

Overall, there was a high interest in the Métis Trappers Association in response to being asked their interest in potential Métis Trappers Association. 54.84% of the experienced trappers and 50% of junior partners answered yes. 41.94% of the experienced trappers and 38.89% of the junior partners answered maybe, but I would still need more information. Survey respondents recommended several supports from the Old Pembroke Métis government. This included education, training courses, financial support assistance, finding records for historical family trap lines, and supporting obtaining new trap lines and reacquiring family trap lines. I'll pass this on to Anna now.

[Chair]
Ms. Ross, the floor is all yours.

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[Senior Manager Anna Ross]
Okay. Yeah, I think Secretary Lacombe covered the overview well, but I am happy to be here and answer any questions or present on anything else that anybody might want more information on.

[Chair]
Good. Council, thoughts, questions? Secretary Lacombe?

[Secretary Lacombe]
Yeah, I'll open the floor to questions also.

[Chair]
Representative Moore.

[Representative Cindy Moore]
Thank you for undertaking this, Secretary Lacombe. Good job. This is highly important to our area.

I would like to know if we have a number in each community because you and I, our borders are kind of close and we've been visiting our communities and I know there's one trapper in Red Earth, but we're not sure if his trap line is in your area or in ours, and so we were just curious about that. Most of the trappers in our area are junior or they're shared with a First Nations member, so it's not actually titled to them. So that kind of skews the statistics for us, but mostly out of curiosity so that we can support and reach out to them if they're having any issues with industry and all the issues that you're talking about because those are common to our area as well.

And so I was just curious about that, if you guys had some numbers.

[Senior Manager Ross]
In this survey, we did not collect information about where the trap lines were located or where the respondents were located, but we would be happy to complete a follow-up survey or support doing more work to find out what those numbers look like.

[Chair]
Thank you, Administration. Secretary Ekeberg.

[Secretary Jason Ekeberg]
I too, I just want to thank you guys for doing that. I think it's very huge and it's very important to our culture. It's very good.

To have over 300 respondents is amazing. I think that's a really good turnout to have that, and I look forward to seeing more of this to come. And hopefully we can see some of the lines are actually Métis-owned, and it would be greatly appreciated to see that stuff, and I look forward to, like I say, seeing more of this.

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Thank you. Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Aura Leddy]
Very similar comments. I'm just very happy to see the results coming from the survey and everything that we've come to learn now, as well as to see that we have some direction to move forward to support our trappers in a good way that hopefully keeps this going for a really long time for generations to come. So I just want to, again, give thanks to all the folks that put a lot of hard work into this, and I'm excited to see where that pays off in the near future.

[Chair]
Representative Ward.

[Representative Trevor Ward]
Yes, no, thank you again. I'm just wondering, now that you guys have compiled some of this information, what are the next steps you guys are looking at, and possibly how can we support you in those next steps?

[Secretary Lacombe]
So first of all, I'll try to answer Cindy's, Representative Moore's. So getting to the person in Red Earth, if they contact me, like I'll take any call from a trapper, I don't have a problem taking any call from my citizens or anybody in Alberta when it comes to this. So when a First Nation has a Métis junior, those cultures are very close.

That fella or that lady is learning from the ground up in a traditional way. So, you know, maybe at one point that Métis junior partner might have a chance to get that trap line if nobody in his family or her family wants to pass it down or they just basically want to get rid of it. So those are the kind of challenges that I want to be a part of when it comes to the government saying, no, it's going up on the block.

We would like to be the ones to say, no, you have to go through us first. Being Section 35 holders and all that kind of stuff, we have to play that. It's important.

Going forward with the ask of Representative Trevor, the assistance that I would probably need or that we would need is probably at a district level, finding out, you know, as you go further south, the trap lines. I'm going to say, you know, other than the land barrier, like the beaver, the muskrats, you know, stuff like that, you know, you might get otter down there. There's probably not a lot of trap lines down there.

I didn't look at the southern part. I don't know if we have that information, Anna. But that's something those are in next steps to see exactly where the trap lines are.

And if there are trap lines in your district, maybe have that person contact us just to have just a genuine conversation and see how everything is going for them. And if they need assistance or, you know, all that comes into play. So I think that's where the districts are going to come into play for the Trappers Association.

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We have to remember that this is in its infancy, but I think it's something that can grow. Thank you, Secretary Lecomte.

[Chair]
Further commentary questions to the Secretary's report? Oh, President Sauer, please go ahead.

[President Sandmaier]
I'll just quickly add, again, great job on the Trapper survey and getting that information. And it's a great start to something that I know Trappers elders have asked for us to do this. We've had lots of starts and stops over the years when it comes to supporting our trappers.

So thank you very much for taking this on.

[Secretary Lacombe]
Very good.

[Chair]
Secretary Lacombe, go ahead.

[Secretary Lacombe]
I just want to say that, you know, since you brought up the elder stuff, that resonates in the trap line too, right? We have older trappers that are getting tired and they want to show those younger trappers how to do that. To get information from those guys, that's paramount as far as I'm concerned.

And to help, maybe help them, I don't know, through some kind of conference or, you know, have speakers and get young people interested in trapping. Some of those kids just have it in their heart, but they don't know how to bring that out. And it's those guys that will help you do that.

[Chair]
Very good. Further commentary, discussion, questions to the report? Seeing none, is there anyone willing to move the acceptance of the report for information?

Secretary Ekeberg moves. Representative Schnell seconds. Further discussion?

Debate? Any opposition to the motion? Motion carries.

The report is so accepted. Thank you, Secretary Lacombe. And thank you, Ms. Ross. Appreciate your hard work on this. That takes us into our next agenda item, which is the development of the Kahsketakihk constituting instruments. And I will turn the floor over to the self-government department.

Lina, the floor is all yours to begin the continuation of this work.

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[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
Good morning, Citizens Council. Now, before we begin, my colleagues are just going around and handing out some materials for today's discussion. So the content of these documents are pulled from the appendices of today's briefing note.

You've seen all this information before, but given how extensive those previous documents were, I'll just summarize it so you don't have to keep flipping through multiple pages. Now, as I'm sure you're all aware, at the March meeting of the Citizens Council, a third draft of the Kahsketakihk regulation and a summary of all the revisions made in drafts two and three was shared with Council to review. But there remains several outstanding discussion items that were raised in the survey that was sent out on March 5th that we would need a decision on before Cabinet can proceed.

So if you all take a look at that first page, we'll just go through each page and each outstanding item one by one. The first one is that the provision that was prohibiting members from political activity was removed. Do you agree with this revision?

So you'll see there that the results were pulled from that survey, and I would like to note that there were only nine respondents at the time, so these results are not representative of everyone's views, of course, which is why we're here today. You'll see that there were four who voted yes, three who voted no, they would like to discuss this revision further, and then two who said they were unsure and would also like to discuss this revision further. For those who are online, the question we're looking at is on appendix one, page nine, and now at the bottom of that new document there, you'll see we've pulled the section that has been edited, so it's part five conduct, no political influence.

The highlighted section is the section that was removed, and we are just back here looking for confirmation if Council would like to keep it that way, or if you would like to add it back in. Yeah, I'll give it to you guys now.

[Chair]
Madam President.

[President Sandmaier]
I'm just wondering, the handout that you guys gave us, appendix one, it's not in the actual package. Can we get it sent to our Council members that are virtual?

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
Sorry, it's just a summarized one.

[President Sandmaier]
Yeah, I understand, but they need this as well, our Council members that are online.

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
I don't know if we have the file. It was corrupted, but I will look for it while you guys discuss, and I'll send it.

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[President Sandmaier]
Thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you, President. Secretary Mitchell.

[Secretary Kaila Mitchell]
On this particular question, I think we've discussed it a number of times. I need a refresher on where we landed the last time we had this discussion, specifically on the political activity being removed.

[Chair]
So, from the record, it looks like there was not consensus, and we essentially deferred this discussion to start it over until you folks have consensus around the table. Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
Yeah, I would like to see it added back in the part that was removed, just because I think at least there's a perception, there could be a perception of conflict by citizens when you see an elder that would be on the Kahsketakihk Council also engaging in campaign activity. And I think at least as we get this started and going, I'd like to see that added in there. And I will say, if the Kahsketakihk Council comes back saying that they perhaps have a different way of doing that or a different recommendation on how to handle this issue, I would be very happy to consider that and potentially implement that other suggestion.

And the reason I would want this in here, and I'm not just as a starting point for them, is because we even have it later in the regulation that after 180 days following the first appointments, that the regulation will be reviewed by Kahsketakihk. And those, their suggested amendments will have to come back. That's in the regulation itself.

But I would very much like to have this, that portion about not engaging in political or campaign activity relating to the Otipemisiwak government on behalf of any campaign candidate or in favor or against any answer to a referendum question while the position is so appointed, added back in.

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

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you. I do have a quick question. I know in our March meeting, there were multiple revisions to the document.

I don't see any of the revisions on this new document.

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]

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Administration. Those revisions have been noted, and because it was tabled last time, they will be reflected in draft for the finalized version. We didn't get a chance to talk through these items in front of you, so we just want to make sure that when we bring you back a draft, it has a meaningful amount of edits and it's not just us adding a period each time.

Okay.

[Representative Dunfield]
And so that draft will be brought back to Citizens Council before it goes back to cabinet for voting on the regulation?

[Chair]
That is my understanding. Okay. Secretary Blatz.

Thank you.

[Secretary Gabrielle Blatz]
I'm just going to also speak in favor of adding this provision back in for the conduct. I think it's important not just to have that elders can be impartial, not just for the comfort of the citizens that are watching them and that are hearing from them, but I think it's also to protect our elders as well. That way there isn't a perception of influence and there's not a perception that there's favoritism or anything like that.

I think that it's just protecting everybody involved. And so I do think that this is important to keep in here just to make sure that people feel the most comfortable. Thank you.

[Chair]
Thanks, Secretary Blatz. Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I would be in favor with including this clause with the exception of political activity. So I agree that the elders should not be involved in campaign activity and on behalf of any candidate or campaign to speak in favor of anything. However, I think political activity is a very broad term and that can be interpreted in a lot of different ways and we don't want to prevent anybody, any citizen from having the right to participate in our government as an individual citizen, whether it's as a support or an advisor to this council or at their local level, at the district level.

So that would be my suggestion to remove political out of there, but keep the campaign.

[Chair]
Thank you, Representative Paul-Alook. Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]

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Yeah, I'm in favor of keeping that whole statement in there. I think it's important to have and I'm really eager to put this, make this happen today because it's been on our table too long. Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Lacombe. Representative Moore.

[Representative Moore]
Sorry. I would just like to support the notion that Representative Alook has raised because when we're talking about the democratic process, if we leave political in there, that includes everything from voting, talking about governance. It's too broad and I think that you're basically hindering anybody from participating as a citizen.

So I'm in favor of the suggestion.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Just to speak a little bit further to the suggestion, one of the things that we have mentioned in previous discussions is that the idea for this, this advisory council is that hopefully we're going to get a group of elders and knowledge holders that have a variety of knowledge, skill, experience that are going to be able to bring forward and support this. Some of those people may have their area of background being knowledge and experience in indigenous politics, in Metis politics. And I think that by saying political activity, we're limiting some of those really great potential candidates from being considered because if that's a huge part of their life already, of their experience and of their knowledge and if their community members feel like they're the best people, we're potentially limiting those candidates from being nominated if we're limiting them from being engaging in political activity, especially I think when it can be interpreted so broadly.

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

[Secretary Leddy]
Yes, I have a suggestion that might address the concern that Representative Paul-Alook has brought up. Seeing as like the regulation has a definition section, could we add a definition that would kind of help define what political is in that state? Sorry, my brain.

It's going too fast. Could we add a definition that would help to limit how broad the term political is that is in the portion that had been removed from the regulation if we add it back in?

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
A definition for political activity could definitely be added into the regulation if that's what council would like to do.

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[Secretary Leddy]
And with that definition, we could narrow it down so it wouldn't impact the areas that Representative Paul-Alook has brought up as perhaps we don't want to limit our elders in that way. Is that possible through that process with the definition?

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
Yes, we could look at existing OMG laws as well as other similar ones just to pull something and craft it from there.

[Chair]
Thank you. Secretary Blatz.

[Secretary Blatz]
Thank you. I'm in favor of having the definition added, but I did want to just mention too just based off of the comments surrounding being confused about what political activity means. I think I would be confused too, but I think that the second half of the statement answers that where it says on behalf of any campaign candidate or in favor or against an answer to a referendum question.

I think that that answers what they're speaking to. It's that it's not supposed to be specific to any individual that is running. That doesn't limit them from voting.

That doesn't limit them from doing any other political activity. It just means that they're not doing something on behalf of a candidate or a campaign during an election. So I think the answer is itself, but I'm totally not opposed to having an actual definition put into the index of what political activity means if that helps.

But I do just want to want to put emphasis on what the second half of the statement says. Thank you.

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

[Secretary Blatz]
Thank you.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
I actually was going to put out the exact same thing. When I look at this statement here, the political or the second half of the section informs what political activity is, which is behalf on any campaign candidate or in favor or against an answer to referendum question while the person is still appointed. But I also would echo that I would be in favor of having a definition of political activity added to the regulation.

Thank you.

[Chair]

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Secretary Bramfield, before we come to you, I just want to ask administration a question. If we're to define political activity, should campaign activity be defined as well and may be separated?

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
It certainly can. Thank you. Secretary Bramfield.

[Secretary Brooke Bramfield]
Thank you. Yeah, I am wondering if political activity ultimately means campaign activity relating to the OMG on behalf of any campaign candidate or in favor or against an answer to a referendum while the person is still appointed. I guess my concern with the word political as well is that if that would be, if political could be considered participating in the citizens gathering and going up to the mic and speaking or a citizens proposal and when there's debate about it.

So that would be my concern when I think about political. I'm like, oh, well, maybe that could be at the citizens gathering. I know at the last citizens gathering we did have a lot of our elders speaking.

So if any of them would be appointed, I wouldn't want to limit their voices. So that's, I guess, my concern with the word political as well unless it's explicitly defined, which I think has been requested before.

[Chair]
Thank you. Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Hello. I would be in support and I do believe it actually has been requested previously of having a definition for that so that there is no confusion and that there is no unintended limitations placed on any of the elders or knowledge holders that serve on this council.

[Chair]
Thank you Representative Paul-Alook. Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do apologize. I think it's really important because this is the first time we're bringing it out of camera for the citizens that are in the room and the citizens that are listening that we share the reasoning behind this, the Kahsketakihk being a regulation.

And the reason why I'm asking that is because I think it's really important for our citizens to understand our processes. And especially when you look at our constitution where it says under operations of the citizens council shall appoint a council made up of elders or knowledge keepers from among the citizens to provide advice and support. That's under the operations of the citizens council, not the operations of the cabinet.

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So I think it's really important for our citizens to understand why we're making it a regulation and not operation of the citizens council.

[Chair]
Thank you, Representative Dunfield. Administration, do we want to answer that or do we want to take that back?

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
Sure, we can answer that. So the council of elders or knowledge keepers, what has formally been named now as Kahsketakihk, does fall under the operations of the citizens council. However, citizens council had expressed a desire early last year to get this work done as quickly as possible in order to get the council standing and have individuals appointed so that the work can begin.

Now, administration had brought forward a couple of options for how this could be done. And one of the options was a regulation just to, as the title of the briefing note states, it is a constituting instrument. So in the constitution and in the self-government act currently, there is not much, many details fleshed out for how this council would work, how individuals be appointed.

Those were details that the council as a group had decided upon through a series of workshops. And so it was decided previously by council that one way this could be done is a regulation could lay out all these decisions and formalize them. And a regulation was picked because it was a quicker option than a bill, which would have to go through a much more extensive process.

And now the reason that this regulation goes to cabinet is simply a division of powers under the constitution. Cabinet holds the power to enact those regulations. And council is, in essence, trusting cabinet to reflect the work that you've all done as a group.

Because everything that's been written in this draft regulation is pulled from those workshops where we did those consensus checks. Nothing is decided by cabinet unilaterally as we are seeing today with this process. Representative Dunfield, does that help?

[Representative Dunfield]
No, it does. And I really appreciate that because like I said, this is the first time we're bringing it out of camera and I think it's really important for our citizens to understand what our processes are. So thank you for sharing that.

[Chair]
Thank you, Administration. And Representative Dunfield, President Sandmaier.

[President Sandmaier]
Thank you for that, Lina. And maybe just to add on, obviously, law, legislation is much more difficult to amend, whereas a regulation can be amended quite easily. So I think it's really important that once we have the Kahsketakihk Council up and running, that they'll be able

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to review the regulation and give us some feedback as well as determine their own terms of reference.

I think it's really important for us to move on to, I think we've come to, I think come to a consensus. We'll have the chair ask that. But I think keeping the provision in and defining the two terms, the campaign in the definitions is the best way to go at this time.

And like I said, if the elders, the Kahsketakihk Council decides that they want to see something different in there, they can make that recommendation. Thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you, President. Secretary Lavallee, I noticed your hand on the line. Do you want to take the floor?

[Secretary Lavallee]
Yeah, I was just going to say I agree with having the provision and what Gabrielle and Laura were saying. And I was just wondering if we'd be able to have just a little bit of a census check because from what I was hearing that everybody's kind of in agreeance that if we define political, we're okay. So, yeah.

[Chair]
Secretary Lavallee, Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not sure if this would fit or not, but just one of the questions I had around this particular piece was is there maybe a further definition that we can add around campaign period? Because, you know, when we talk about our elders and, you know, as Representative Paul-Alook shared, a lot of our elders are very involved in the process.

So maybe there needs to be a further definition around campaign. What does that mean? Do we narrow it to say, you know, cannot do this during campaign period and what does campaign period mean?

Just a suggestion to throw out there for the definitions piece.

[Chair]
Okay. Before I ask the group for final thoughts on this question, Administration, anything further to add on this?

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
Sure. So I'm hearing around the room that there is a desire to add a couple new definitions which can certainly be done. Before we do that, I would just like to note that previous conversations about this had requested a definition for political influence which has been added.

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And I would like to remind you that there is still a terms of reference that the council themselves would develop. So we would be happy to add that definition for political activity. But if you would like to consider the option of having that discussion with the elders who would be appointed so that they have a little bit more say over what they would define as political activity, that is an option that is also on the table.

[Chair]
Thank you, Administration. Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
As agreed around the table, I think that it would be best suited for the definition section in this regulation. Just so that it's not open to interpretation, it's clearly laid out in there. Also, it's not, sorry, the regulation is going to be there throughout.

If we're relying just for feedback from the elected, sorry, the appointed members of the council, that definition could change over time, right? If we're putting it in, leaving it up to the first group of people for them to tell us what political activity is, there is potential for that view to change over time or depending on the makeup of the council.

[Chair]
Thank you, Representative. Secretary Bramfield.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you. Just to confirm, I think campaign activities is very clear and obvious, but for political activity, is the definition just essentially going to say it's regarding in favor or against an answer to a referendum question while the person is appointed because that's what I'm, what Secretary Blatt's pointed out before. Is that essentially what political activity would mean?

Because campaign activities would be very obvious, but broader, would political activity just essentially be in favor or against an answer to a referendum question?

[Chair]
Sure, we can ask administration to draft the definition today on the floor in front of you. I think if it goes back and that's the answer, then council needs to consider whether it needs to be a definition and then repeat it in the regulation, though, if it becomes repetitive, but we can certainly ask them to take it back. That said, let's test for consensus.

So what I've heard generally from council, what I've heard from president is the desire to keep the provision in as written and potentially add definitions of political activity, campaign activity, and campaign period. Are we okay with administration taking that back to the draft, keeping the section in, and drafting three definitions for consideration? Is there anyone who disagrees with that approach?

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Okay, administration, it sounds like you have your direction on question six.

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
Thank you. And, okay, so on the second page, our second discussion item here is section 21 has been added to make reference to the Code of Ethics Act, applying the rules of ethics in part two of that act to the members of the Kahsketakihk Council. Do you agree with this revision?

You'll see there that there was an overwhelming majority in favor of that from the respondents, but, again, we bring it back as not all council members had answered that survey, and you'll see the second half of the page, the exact line from the regulation draft, and we've also included just the subtitles from the part of the Code of Ethics Act that would apply.

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
I'm very much in favor in keeping this portion in the regulation, especially after, when I reflect on the workshops that we did with elders and talking about the values and how an elder should carry themselves and those sort of things, and when I read this, these are the things that they said that a lot of this falls under what they were saying in that, and I think this is a good way to include very much the messages that they gifted to us in those workshops and make sure that the elders we have there are holding to the things they said that are important, so I would like to see it remain.

[Chair]
Secretary Mitchell. I like this. Leave it in.

Good. Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
I'm in favor of keeping the Code of Ethics Act in.

[Chair]
Okay. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak to this provision, Madam President?

[President Sandmaier]
I am as well in favor of keeping this in the regulation.

[Chair]
Would you like me to just test for consensus on this then, Madam President? Yes. Okay.

Council, the President's asking for consensus on question seven, which is to include the rules of ethics and their application to members of this council. Is there anyone who opposes the Code of Ethics Act Part 2 Rules of Ethics applying to the council members? Seeing none,

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Administration, it sounds like you have your answer to question seven, which is to keep this section in the regulation as drafted.

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
Okay. Fantastic. So for our third one, so on the survey, when we were collecting feedback on the vacancies and removal section, there had been a question about whether it would be helpful to have that section a little bit more fleshed out just to ensure that there is a way to handle should there be a vacancy, leave of absence, or need for removal in the period before a terms of reference is developed and formalized. So what Administration did was we went back into that section and added a few more details.

I'd like to note that we did keep under each of these a provision saying that the terms of reference that would be developed by the Kahsketakihk Council could add more details, remove things, so it is still flexible. But you'll see on this page here just a summary of those new provisions that were added. If you'd like to see the actual language in the regulation, you'll find that on appendix two in your binder on page eight.

[Chair]
Okay, Council, I will open the floor to you for thoughts, comments on the provisions with respect to vacancies and removal under part four of the regulation. Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you. Lina, I don't think, I don't see appendix two in our binder. I see appendix one.

Am I missing it? Oh, okay. Never mind.

Thank you.

[Chair]
You're with us? Very good. Anyone else having trouble finding it?

Need a minute? Okay, I'm seeing heads down reading, so we'll give you guys a minute to go through. Okay, Council, I think everyone's had a chance to look.

I'm gonna essentially just go through these one by one. So the revision at 16.1 adds a provision stating that the council members may take leave of absence by delivering written notice to the chair of the Citizens Council. Is there any discussion on that addition?

Is there any opposition to that addition that allows for leave of absence for members? Consensus on keeping it in then? Very good.

The second is 17.1 to 2 added provisions outlining when the member's appointment is automatically revoked and how they might be removed from the council. Any thoughts on the general removal provisions at 17.1 and 2? Any opposition to keeping that language as drafted?

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Consensus on keeping it in then? Okay, confirming that's good. Section 18.1 added a provision that Citizens Council must appoint a person to fill a vacancy on the council as soon as practicable. Any discussion on that section? Secretary Blatz.

[Secretary Blatz]
Thank you. I'm just curious what the definition of that is because does that mean that we don't have a time limit but it would just be whenever we can because I think that we should have probably a more specific time limit.

[Chair]
That's the last thing administration wants to hear I guarantee it. Definition for as soon as practicable legal counsel is in the room. Do you want to run forward and answer what the general definition of that means?

I look to you Mr. Henry. Here he comes. Legal counsel says it's too vague.

Doesn't want to define it for you at all. Administration, can we get a copy of this summary document to the end of the table? Legal counsel is going to join us and offer some thoughts.

I hear that you guys scared the lawyer. It's usually the other way around isn't it? Secretary Blatt I'm going to turn it back over to you to re-ask your question now that we have the benefit of counsel at the table.

[Secretary Blatz]
My question was just about the line that says as soon as practicable. My worry about that is that what does that mean? Could that mean that we could delay it by a year before filling that?

Is there any time limit at all? And if not then we may want to think about creating a time limit for that.

[Legal Counsel James Henry]
There's no set deadline as soon as practicable. That's the problem with leaving a vague term. It was kind of like the discussion yesterday where you guys said biannually.

Was that twice a year or is it every two years? If you're going to set a timeline my advice would be to set a deadline because we're looking at section 26, right?

[Chair]
18 sub 1. There's a summary document next to your hand on your mouse.

[Secretary Blatz]
It's on page 2 of the document.

[Legal Counsel James Henry]

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Any language that you replace this with as soon as reasonably possible but it leaves it too open.

[Secretary Blatz]
I agree. In that case I'd like to request a revision to put as must appoint a person to fill a vacancy to within three months.

[Chair]
May I offer some procedural advice from the department's perspective even though I'm sitting in your chair role. Is there anyone who would object to that? Okay.

So the challenge with three months is you would have to come back to council to announce the vacancy. Council would direct administration to advertise it. We'd be looking at probably two weeks before we have comms ready to be advertising.

So you're then a month and a half into your process. We'd be coming back with those council nomination packages after about a four to six week advertisement. We wouldn't even be coming back to council with names for probably the third council meeting.

So three months is probably challenging to meet. I just throw that out there from an administrative just timeline perspective when we look at your nomination processes. And if you miss the 90 day deadline what happens?

[Secretary Blatz]
I think that the reason why I'm suggesting that is because anything over that seems like a long time to have a vacancy especially when they're representing different territories. So I would hate to have business being continued with elders council without the voice of that territory being involved. And so then there's a whole portion of the province that's not being heard.

And I think that it does create an urgent matter. So I would be okay with if we need to backfill those if we went through email or we did an online meeting specific to appointing someone to that council. I just think it's urgent especially when we're talking about the elders council because we've lost so many elders as it is already.

And I think that the faster that we can both approve this council as well as approving a new council member whenever there's a vacancy I think that this is an urgent matter.

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

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you. I do apologize. I'm going to have to go back to 17.1 and this was in an uncomfortable conversation. So I will be transparent and say that I did have a quick conversation with our elder but one of the provisions or one of the things that we don't

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have in here is automatically revoked in the in the event of elders passing. So I think that's maybe a provision that we need to add in this. So that's why I'm bringing it now because it was a bit uncomfortable and I wanted to make sure that as you said it's a lot of our elders have passed and that's not a comfortable conversation to have.

So I think we we probably should have something in there as well. But I to extend to that too. So I do I do agree with Secretary Blatt.

I do think we need to have something in there because I think the as soon as practicable is very broad and and you know that's there's there's provisions in ways that we could do this like if we think about it maybe it's something that we add to the terms of reference the elders add to the terms of reference especially around in the case of you know where we an elders vacancy in one of our territories maybe it's within that territory to bring bring forward nominations et cetera et cetera.

I think we can do it in a really good way but I don't think we should be without an elder within a territory for a length of time because then that representation is not there.

[Chair]
Thank you Representative Dunfield. I'm going to take your first comment back around 17-1 and give it a bit of consideration here and we'll continue on this one and come back to it. Secretary Bramfield.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you Representative Dunfield and Secretary Blatz. I just wanted to voice my support for Secretary Blatz's recommendation and I think that there's ways where we can ensure that we could meet the three month that has been suggested especially with the communications. I mean we would have all of that communications material basically ready to go once we know I think it could be sent out within a week or a couple days and we would have already gone through this process when we appointed our initial council so I just want to support Secretary Blatz and I think the three months is doable.

[Legal Counsel James Henry]
Legal counsel. Sorry I just want to chime in before everyone replies. Here's your benefits and drawbacks.

If you set a timeline and a date your feet must be held to the date. If you leave it more discretionary it can be a little bit more difficult to deal with as a council because then you have to come to an agreement as to when it happens. The appointment has to it's very uncomfortable because it feels more discretionary.

Does that make sense? But then you're not off side of anything if it doesn't happen immediately. So there's your benefits and drawbacks of changing this legislation or regulation rather to having either a firm date or leaving it as discretionary amongst you.

[Chair]

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Representative Ward.

[Representative Ward]
We've gone so when we do the initial process and I'm hoping that we get quite a few nominations from that territory to help expedite the process and then if we don't then we might have to open it up then. With that help could we use those names that were already brought forward and maybe contact some of those look through those names in there and pick out of those?

[Chair]
I don't know that we can answer that question. Certainly if council directs this must be done in 90 days administration will come back with solutions and say this is how we can achieve that. Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]
I think I want to expand on Trevor's answer. With the nomination package or the application is there somewhere we can put a clause in there that says would you consider if a spot becomes open in this territory would you consider keeping your name available?

That way we don't have to repost and all that kind of stuff doesn't have to happen and just have that little clause in there that says that. Check the box or what have you. Representative Moore.

[Representative Moore]
Thank you. A thought occurred to me about similar to what representative ward suggested with regards to looking at the applicants in that region. Could we also kind of like what secretary Lacombe suggested is have an acting position so that if we were to leave the wording the same we could ask somebody to act in that position until the next election or until more convenient time to post it publicly so that there's no gap, there's no loss of that elder knowledge that's taken.

Is there something that we might want to consider as well?

[Chair]
Secretary Blatt. Thank you.

[Secretary Blatz]
Just back to the answer about the 90 days. I know that it would be hard to make sure that we are within those 90 days but number one I don't suspect that this is going to be an everyday thing that we have to deal with. I don't see this being something that would be often but number two I think that holds us accountable especially as a council to making sure that we are prioritizing our elders council and I think that that comes with the respect of our elders is making sure that we are prioritizing them and I think that the 90 days is something that I do want to remain firm on because it is while it would be difficult I would hope that we would all jump in and be ready to go if that is the case that we don't have an elder in that position anymore. I think anything longer than that I think would make it really

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difficult to have the correct representation and to give them the opportunity to build the relationship with their co-counselors as well.

So I'm remaining firm on that. Thank you.

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
Kind of two thoughts. I was going to ask for 120 days because that extra 30 days I think hearing how the timeline tends to go and then my experience with the nominations committee I think that extra 30 days helps a lot in the situations of something unforeseeable happening and messing up what happens or in the case that you don't get enough applicants. I do want to put that out.

I love the ideas of folks being able to keep their application in the pool should a vacancy occur. What happens if we only have two applicants for a territory? They're both on there.

We have no more. That's the thought that goes through my mind there. If you would be open to an additional 30 days to it, I would like that, but also if you're very firm on 90 days, I may be swayed.

[Chair]
Madam President.

[President Sandmaier]
I like the idea of a time frame and not leaving it open. This is really, really uncomfortable for me to say, but if we lose an elder sitting on that council, is it appropriate to start advertising for their position right away?

[Chair]
I don't think so. Secretary Blatz.

[Secretary Blatz]
I completely understand that, and I agree with you. I think what I was saying is more along the lines of somebody quits or they no longer live in that territory or they lose citizenship. I think definitely we also need to think about how we would handle it if we lost one of the elders, because that's also going to be affecting that council for who knows how long as well.

So giving that grace period and a mourning period as well, but I was specifically speaking to you just in the event that it was somebody that left the council.

[Chair]
Before I come to you, Representative Dunfield, I might offer a sense of an elegant solution. You could apply filling the vacancy within 90 days unless otherwise decided by council,

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which gives you the freedom to make that decision on a case-by-case basis. Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm kind of jumping ahead to the next point around the revised provision stating that rules governing and the opportunity, as Lina stated, the terms of reference for our elders. I do like that provision that you stated, Mr. Chair, but I also do like the fact that we can leave it open for our elders to have further discussion on this piece themselves. I do support the three months with the addition of the chair's provision, but also with the understanding that the elders will have an opportunity to review this regulation and make any adjustments in their terms of reference or add to it. That will help us mitigate some of those potential risks. Thank you.

[Chair]
Okay. I'll test for consensus on that and see if we've landed. Is the provision at 18.1 rather than as soon as practicable adding the language within 90 days unless otherwise determined by citizens council. Is there any objection to that language? Is there consensus on that language? Very good.

Administration, you have direction on that one. To come back to your question with respect to sections 17, sub 1 and 2, representative Dunfield, so the passing of an elder, again, understanding this is a very emotional and difficult conversation to have. That is covered under section 17.

The citizenship act at section 37 provides that following the death of a citizen, they are no longer a citizen. Rather than including death provisions in each of our pieces of legislation, we have one provision in the citizenship act which makes them no longer a citizen upon their death.

[Representative Dunfield]
Would it be appropriate to include that in the definitions?

[Chair]
Certainly we can include those references. Okay. That takes us into section 16, sub 2, 17, sub 3 and 18, sub 2, which all apply the revised provision stating that rules governing leave of absence, et cetera, must be adopted in the terms of reference by the council, and additional rules governing the procedures that apply in the event of one of those scenarios may also be established in the terms of reference.

Is there any discussion on this language? Any objections to the inclusion of this language? So we have consensus on the inclusion of this language?

Very good. Okay. Lina, I'll turn it over to you to move into part 5, conduct, and carry on.

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]

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Actually, we can move on to the last page. We've already discussed the conduct on this chart here. So at the March meeting, citizens council had proposed removing section 15 1A of the regulation, specifically the part that says advice shall be requested regarding a specific matter by ordinary resolution of the citizens council or cabinet.

There had been some pros and cons weighed and administration was asked to come back with some perspective on that matter. So after consulting with legal counsel, the opinion that was provided was that the section 15 3 of the self-government act could be interpreted as supporting an argument in favor of keeping that subsection. Now, the council of elders or knowledge keepers is not an advisory body, but given that its purpose as stated in the constitution and the self-government act is to provide advice, it can be considered as analogous to one, in which case keeping this subsection in the regulation would be a good idea just to ensure that there is that measure of accountability.

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
I'm in favor of keeping it in there, especially because when I reflect on how we talk to judicial and that, and then I reflect on the importance of elders, especially in my life growing up, I see them as being in a similar authority in the sense of I would want to show them the same respect that I would also show to judicial, and I think a good way to do that is to treat them as a government the way that we have in referring things to judicial, in referring that to our elders as well, and what an honor it is to hold our elders in such a prized and revered way through doing that. So I would be in favor of keeping it.

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

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair, and if I recall from the conversations that happened in March, the concern that was raised by council members, including myself, on this by ordinary resolution, advice shall be requested regarding a specific matter by ordinary resolution, was very colonial, and that was the major discussion that we had, and that would be my concern, is that by using that language, it's a very colonial process, and we're a Métis government, and I think the conversations that was had, if I remember correctly, was really around how we need to engage with our elders in our Métis way, not through resolutions coming forward, and that there's got to be other opportunities, and potentially through the terms of reference that the elders would develop for us to be able to engage with them, and so that was why there was the request to remove A, because it was a colonial process, not a Métis process.

[Chair]
Is there further discussion on the questions surrounding 15 sub 1 sub A? Secretary Leddy.

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[Secretary Leddy]
I guess I have actually one question. If we were to remove A, it would then be established in the terms of reference. My question would be, how long would it generally take for a terms of reference to come back and be ready for us to know how we could then engage on a specific matter?

[Chair]
If I look at the committees this council has established, your terms of reference have typically been come back to council anywhere between three and six months?

[Secretary Leddy]
That would limit us from being able to send anything on a specific matter for a minimum of three to six months. So I have concerns on that front as well because I also am in the place where I would like to see this up and running as soon as possible and I would like to have that support and advice from our elders as soon as we are able to. So my worry would be in removing that is that we are hindering ourselves from elders for three to six months.

[Chair]
Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Good morning. I would like to reflect what secretary said is that this is a very important council that we have been trying to get up and running. We have to have some sort of process to ask the questions that we need to so that they're aware and that they can go back to their council and have those discussions and then bring back an answer.

So the process needs to stay and I think if they felt that that was insulting, I'm sure they would tell us, but I'm in favor of it staying where it is.

[Chair]
Representative Schnell.

[Representative Catherine Schnell]
I'd just like to say that I'm in favor of removing it. I do think this is something that would be top of mind for them because that is what they're going to be doing is opening up communication between us and by making like a resolution just doesn't seem quite right on how I would speak with my elder and ask for advice on things so I do think we need to think of a better way or leave it up to them on how they'd like to communicate with us. That's just my opinion.

[Chair]
Thank you Representative Schnell. Further discussion on? Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]

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Yeah, I'm in favor of leaving it in there because I want to keep this motion, I want to keep our motion moving forward to get this done and then when that council convenes and you know maybe they can have a chance to say well let's talk about 15 1A because we don't think it should be in there. Give them the chance to say yes or no to that. If we keep taking stuff out, we just keep having meetings.

So let's give them the chance to be elders.

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Lecomte. Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you Mr. Chair. I think it's the wording that's really not sitting well, ordinary resolution and maybe what I would request then is, and it sounds really odd, legal to take a look at. Is there other wording that we could potentially use other than ordinary resolution?

And I know I'm kind of contradicting myself here when I say that the wording is colonial but then I'm asking our legal for advice on this one. But is there more culturally appropriate wording that we could be using instead of ordinary resolution?

[Legal Counsel James Henry]
Probably. I guess my question would be is how do you want to show your citizens that you are sending things to your elders council? Because from my perspective, you want to give them a certain amount of deference, right?

You bring an ordinary resolution, you send something to the MJC. You bring an ordinary resolution, you're sending something to your elders council. You are showing your citizens that you are listening to them.

You are sending them things to consider and that they are advising you. So I guess my question would be is, colonial language aside, what is the real concern here?

[Chair]
Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
I actually just turned my mic off to see if maybe Representative Dunfield had a response to our legal.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Not quite. I'm just looking at something but go ahead, Secretary Wolfe. Okay.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

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I believe that what Secretary Leddy had said about the timing is really important. I also think that by having things come up through ordinary resolution keeps us accountable as a citizens council to what we are asking of our elders. And like we said, we do have that Part B where it says, in such other manner as established in the terms of reference for Kahsketakihk.

That leaves it open for our elders to determine what they think is the best way for us to come forward. However, I do share that same concern with how long terms of references do take to be established. And I also don't want to feel like we are rushing our elders to make that terms of reference.

If it takes longer than three to six months, we're stuck for longer than that. So I believe having provision A in there by ordinary resolution of the citizens council or cabinet is important to keep so that we can make sure that we are doing our due diligence and bringing forward the things that we need guidance on from our elders and not be held up by the terms of reference. And until the elders are ready to bring the terms of reference forward and if they have further guidance on that, then we can then look to change the regulation to reflect their wishes.

But it's important that we have something in there that allows us to do the work that we need to do without having to wait.

[Chair]
Madam President.

[President Sandmaier]
Yeah, I'm in agreement for leaving it in. I think the timeline for the development of the terms of reference for the Kahsketakihk Council could really hold things up. And I just want to say, as far as the Métis Nation of Alberta, the Otipemisiwak Métis government, we have been using motions and ordinary resolutions since Riel's provisional government.

So I don't think this is unprecedented. This isn't something that we've just started to do. It's something that we have done for generations.

This is the way that we have been governing ourselves since Riel. So I don't think the wording of an ordinary resolution or a motion is not a Métis way of doing things. Thank you.

[Chair]
Secretary Bramfield.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you. I support keeping 15A in. I think it just leaves the mechanism where we can decide as a council and seek advice and support from our elders.

I guess my other question is, though, is, and I know the elders will go and develop a terms of reference because I do think about how we need to pass an ordinary resolution that will be

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in writing about what we're seeking advice on. But I also just want to make sure that if elders and how we're receiving back their support and advice is that I just, I really want, I hope that our elders can come, like all of them could, if there's an issue where we're seeking their advice and support on is that, that our elders could come back to the table and we could speak to them directly and listen to their wisdom and their stories and experiences and whatever else.

Because I think that's where, I just, I'm just worried that we'll just get rid, that maybe the, I just don't want to lose the in-person kipikskwano when we're seeking support and advice from our elders. And I just hope that that doesn't, that that will remain.

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

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, one of the things that's really, words matter, right? Words matter.

And how we use those words really matter. And I understand what we're saying and I don't disagree with, you know, my colleagues around the table. You know, it's why we're using words like, sorry, Kahsketakihk, why can't I talk, Kahsketakihk, no not Kahsketakihk, Kahsketakihk, sorry, my tongue is not working today.

It's why we use our language, because our language and our words have more impact, because they mean multiple things. And when I see words like ordinary resolution, and you know, and I'm not disagreeing with President Sandmeier about the history of some of those things, there's, like, I see some of those words as being very systemic and very colonial, and I'm not trying to take away from that. It's more about how do we use the words from our culture, our traditions, that broaden that.

So when we talk about consensus making or collective agreement or, you know, talking circles, those kinds of things is what I'm trying to, you know, really, when we're developing these processes, we are using colonial processes, because in some cases, we have no choice. But when it comes to our elders council, I really think that there's better words that we can be using. And I just want us to think about that.

I'm not going to continue arguing about it, because I'm not disagreeing with the process that we're trying to establish for us to be able to engage with our elders. I just want us to use words that are more appropriate for who we are as Métis people, and especially when it comes to our elders council. So I'm fine moving forward, if that's what we would want to do.

But what I would encourage in administration to really look at and are legal is, what other words could we use? Is there a word, like, kipikskwano? Yes, my lips were not working.

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But that's a word that's in our constitution. Maybe that's a word we can incorporate in our elders council in this piece here. So like I said, I'm fine moving forward, if we want to keep that in there.

But let's consider, when we bring back our next draft, words that we could potentially use and maybe even talking to some of our elders about what those words could be.

[Chair]
Representative Ward?

[Representative Ward]
Yeah, I'm okay with the wording there. I just want to make sure that those people that are sitting on or in Kahsketakihk realize that they don't need to bring back a joint statement, is that we want their individual knowledge. So we might send it as a joint statement, but just to make sure that our knowledge holders are aware that they don't, we're not looking for consensus from them, we're looking for guidance from them, and their individual perspectives matter to us.

[Chair]
Madam President?

[President Sandmaier]
I'm wondering if the senior director of self-government can just explain to us, when we developed a few years ago now, the Self-Government Act, and how we used the language when we established and were writing with the lawyers, the Self-Government Act, because language is important, and I think an explanation on that would be helpful.

[Chair]
Yeah, yeah, I can. And you're right, President, you're right, Representative Dunfield, the language we use is critical, it's very important. And the Self-Government Act was thoughtful in its use of language, it refers specifically to decisions of this Council being made by ordinary resolution in the Act.

The Constitution doesn't refer to resolution at all, it talks about things like majority vote, it talks about we will talk, and the Cree word for that. What we looked at, though, is Section, I think it's 12.3, talks about governing in the spirit of Real's provisional governments, which I was reminded of yesterday, and I actually was going through some of my notes yesterday on how we developed some of the laws, and the language and use of resolution was thoughtful when we tried to find the term we could use to convey the decisions of those majority votes of this Council, or the consensus decisions of this Council, and it actually came specifically from the resolution that was moved by James Ross and seconded by Real, which was inviting the Canadian Commissioners to send a delegation as part of their attempt at entry into Confederation at the time.

So the language was thoughtful, it was based on the governance of our past. If there's better words, we can certainly go back and repeat those exercises, and I think that's good

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direction for Council to keep giving administration for us to keep looking for those words and making sure that we're continuing to be thoughtful and expressing that in the way we have. But I just wanted to, for Council, certainly it was thoughtful language when we did review it.

It wasn't just a reiteration of municipal bylaws or federal laws, things like that. It was a very thoughtful process at the time, to the best of our ability within a very compressed 10-month time frame to develop some of those instruments, but thank you for the invitation to offer that, Madam President. And legal counsel, I think you have some advice as well.

[Legal Counsel James Henry]
Your motions and ordinary resolutions are very important. When we were arguing for self-government, we pulled the records over the last 90 years as to how many resolutions were brought to seek self-government, how many resolutions are brought to seek jurisdiction on child and family services. Those things matter.

But I think what Representative Dunfield is shining a light on is perhaps finding language forward, but that's a really broader discussion than just this particular regulation.

[Chair]
Thanks for that. So we're about 20 minutes past the time we would take a break. We do have this still on the agenda for post-break, so we will come back and have the continuation of this discussion.

We'll maybe test for consensus, see where we're at. Council is going to break for 20 minutes. Sorry, 17 minutes, and we'll come back at 11 o'clock.

Thank you. Council stands in recess until 11 a.m. We are now on the path of the Elders Council Regulation Draft. The question we were on is in respect to the provision at Section 15, Sub 1, Sub A in the regulation, advice shall be requested from the CAC regarding a specific matter, A, by ordinary resolution of the Citizens' Council or Cabinet.

Is there further discussion or submissions on whether this stays in or goes that Council wishes to make? Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I would be in favor of keeping it as is with the, I guess, with the idea that's in keeping with some of the other comments that have already been made, specifically from Secretary Bramfield and Representative Ward, around not necessarily the wording being an issue, but ensuring that the process itself doesn't become a technical process, not a natural dialogue that would be similar to how we would engage with elders in our own communities. So I think if that is kind of kept at the front of mind when building the terms of reference, that that's what we're looking for, then I think the wording could stay.

But that would be where my concerns are, not specifically around the wording, more about ensuring that that process doesn't become just a technical request for something, like an

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official request for something and then an official receipt without that natural dialogue piece in keeping with, you know, the principle of kipikskwano and how we actually engage with our elders in community.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook, Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. So I just want to reiterate that I think that the Ordinary Resolution gives us a process that we need while we're in this room at this time when we're having the elder in the room and they take their information back to the Council. It's not for when we're out in community.

It's not for when we're having a one-on-one conversation. It's about the process of being here in this room, and we need to seek their attention because we can't agree on a matter. We need to have the wisdoms of the knowledge keepers.

I got cut off. Thank you. Sometimes, like I said, the elder in the room might be able to provide their advice at the time or be able to take it back and then bring it back.

So however that seems to be, I'm very fine with it being just as it is. And if they don't like it, they will come back and tell us.

[Chair]
Thank you, Secretary Lisa Wolfe. Representative Ward.

[Representative Ward]
Can we just flip A and B? Because we'll just defer to their terms, and I think it was outside as well. Somebody gave me the idea that it's or and not and.

Right? We just defer to what they want, but we do have the other option.

[Chair]
Is there any opposition to adjusting the order of A and B so that they are reversed? I don't see any opposition to that idea. Okay.

I'm going to test for consensus generally on the question that if we reverse the order of A and B under 15 sub one, is there any opposition to keeping the language as drafted in the regulation? Seeing none. Is there consensus to keep both but reverse the order?

Consensus is established. Administration is so directed for the drafting. Lina, you can take us into the next.

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
That concludes the discussion for the Kahsketakihk regulation. So thank you today for all of your thoughtful conversations, your input, your patience. Administration has made note of the directed revisions, and we will implement that for a draft four for your review.

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The briefing note, the motion is left there blank for you guys to decide on what you would like the next steps to be. But this concludes all of our outstanding items.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Lina. Just wanting to make sure that there will be that addition to page 1026 that we had discussed back in March.

[Chair]
Administration, can you confirm that there's an addition coming after section 26?

[Representative Dunfield]
If you recall, Mr. Chair, I think it was your wording that we used. It was as soon as practicable. Oh, there we go again with that wording.

As soon as practicable. And no more than 180 days following the first appointment to Kahsketakihk this regulation will be reviewed by Kahsketakihk and any resulting suggested amendments submitted to cabinet for consideration with input from Citizens Council.

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
I can confirm that amendment will be included. Yes. Thank you.

[Chair]
Good. Thank you kindly. Okay.

Is there further discussion on the EKK matter and a potential motion to close this off and give administration some direction? Council, I look to you, given that the administration put it to you to come up with a motion. Secretary Mitchell, thoughts?

[Representative Dunfield]
Oh, I was just ready to move the motion.

[Chair]
What is the motion you're ready to move?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Sorry. Ignore me until the wording is ready.

[Chair]
Very good. Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
I was just going to second that motion when Secretary Mitchell was ready to read it.

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[Chair]
So currently, the motion is be resolved by the Citizens Council that dot, dot, dot. So it is left open to council to determine next steps on this. Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
I was just going to say, I don't see anything after the dot, dot, dot. But I'm wondering if the motion then would be that we accept this for information with a fourth draft to be brought back to us. As soon as practicable.

Sorry.

[Chair]
If you accept it for information, administration is not directed to do anything.

[Representative Dunfield]
Oh, sorry.

[Chair]
So you can refer to administration, enter the amendments and revisions as discussed in council, and bring back a future draft. You can make a motion to refer it to cabinet to review. There's any number of avenues for you, council, but it really is up to you.

[Representative Dunfield]
Go ahead, Secretary Mitchell. I regret putting my light on.

[Secretary Mitchell]
What is the wording that you guys would like?

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy, do you have thoughts?

[Secretary Leddy]
I would like to send it to review for cabinet. Ideally, I think we need to get moving a little bit faster on this, especially in the light of how 2026 is going. And I feel like that would be a good place to take it next.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield.

[Secretary Leddy]
Thank you, Mr. Chair.

[Representative Dunfield]
I respectfully disagree. I think we need to see the final draft come to Citizens Council for review before it goes to cabinet.

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[Chair]
What if I could make you both right? The motion could read that the administration is directed to make the changes and amendments as discussed by Citizens Council and circulate the final draft digitally to Citizens Council for review and then have it referred to cabinet for decision. That way we kill many birds with one stone, and this theoretically could be enacted as soon as June.

Would that be satisfactory, Representative Dunfield?

[Representative Dunfield]
I think my only concern with that, Mr. Chair, has been discussed multiple times over the last couple of days. The response from Citizens Council on surveys or emails is not consensus. We usually get between five and ten.

So in order for us to ensure that this regulation is supported by all council members, I do feel it should come back to Citizens Council and not rely on email or unless there's a specific email that says everybody needs to respond by this date, then I would be more comfortable with that.

[Chair]
Madam President, you have thoughts.

[President Sandmaier]
When we have had to do this on other occasions, there is a timeline. Generally, I think what we put in it is if you are not in agreement or something, please get back to us by a certain date. But I fully agree with the steps that are laid out that we can do this.

We've had lots of discussions around the table. We have just lost another elder. We need to be mindful of that and get this moving.

And I think waiting for another council meeting, I think that administration can make the changes that we all agreed upon today, send it out electronically, and we can get this moving. I think it's very important.

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
I was just going to request if we do send out a survey for folks to give their thoughts. No survey? Okay.

Perfect. Because I am also concerned about how people respond to those, as in the amount. Okay.

Never mind.

[Chair]

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Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
I'm in favor of moving that motion forward as administration dictates, and then let's put it through cabinet for review, and we shall be done with this as soon as practical.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
I think that's going to be the favorite phrase of the day. What I would say then, I think this kind of aligns with some of the questions or questions and concerns that have come forward from council before, that it's probably more appropriate for cabinet to be meeting after council meetings, because then if that was the case, then this regulation could come to council and then go to cabinet the next day for approval. Just wanting to state that, because I think right now the way we're set up is cabinet meets before council, where if cabinet met after council, they would be able to move forward these regulations much quicker.

[Chair]
I suppose it depends how you look at it. The next cabinet meeting is after this council meeting. So you can just flip things on their head.

Okay. Council, I look to you for direction. Madam President, please.

[President Sandmaier]
Yeah, and just to add, there's always an option for cabinet to have virtual meetings. So if there is something that comes out of council that is important for us to discuss after council, that is always an option. Thank you.

[Chair]
Okay. I don't know that I've still necessarily heard a coherent motion put to the floor. Is there someone who wants to try?

Secretary Lisa Wolfe? If you think you did, I would love to hear. Oh, my God.

So the clerk can record.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Let's try it. Okay, let's give it a shot. Be it resolved that Citizens Council that directs administration.

Oh, God. Hold on. Yes.

I can't do it. I can't read my own chicken scratch as you said it. I would like some help.

[Chair]
Very good.

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[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Thank you.

[Chair]
How about be it resolved by the Citizens Council that administration be directed to incorporate the changes as discussed, circulate the draft regulation to Citizens Council electronically and refer the draft regulation to cabinet for decision.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
I concur. And we'll make the motion. Thank you.

[Chair]
Moved by Secretary Lisa Wolfe. Is there a seconder to that motion as Secretary Gabrielle Blatz? Is there further discussion on the motion?

Seeing none, is there opposition to the motion? Motion carries. The City's administration is so directed and it is referred to cabinet.

Thank you kindly, council. That takes us into, you want to say, that's probably some of the hardest work you guys are ever going to do as this government is trying to incorporate into an instrument something that is inherently not an instrument. It is the traditional way of governing.

So congratulations to you guys because that's huge. It's very hard to codify tradition. Okay, that takes us into agenda item number six, which is the officer reports.

And we have the report from the judicial branch, annual report on activities and operations for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. I will invite the chair of the judicial tribunal, Lionel Chartrand, to join us at the table. I know he's in here, I saw him.

Here he comes. Okay, welcome, Chair Chartrand. The floor is all yours for your report.

[Judicial Tribunal Chairperson Lionel Chartrand]
Greetings to members of the Citizens' Council and all our elders and all those in attendance. My name is Lionel Chartrand, I'm the chair of the Judicial Council. I'm honored to be here and present to you today on behalf of the Judicial Council.

I'll make my presentation in two segments. First, the role of the Judicial Council, tribunal, and the activities of last year. By way of introduction, these are exciting times in the young life of the Otipemisiwak Metis government.

We're grateful to be part of the renewal of treaty making relationships with Canada and to take our place within confederation together. It's a time of renewed recognition where we

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can once again participate in a broader society making a meaningful difference and contribute to a stronger future for our children and grandchildren. Our organization is strongest when all of its parts work together with care, respect, and a shared sense of purpose.

As members of the judicial tribunal, we're honored to serve in the early stages of a new and evolving indigenous nation, and we do so with humility and care. We are deeply mindful of and respectful towards our place within the membership and the governance structure of the Otipemisiwak Metis government and of the relationships that help hold that structure together. The relationship among parliament, the executive branch of government, and the judiciary has long been considered in colonial and western societies and has been explored through judicial decisions and commentary.

These discussions offer helpful points for reflection. As members of the judicial tribunal, we continue to learn about our role and to honor the structure of our government with care, respect, and a sincere commitment to working well together. The Citizens' Council is elected by our membership to lead our nation, govern on its behalf, and to create laws.

It carries an important mandate from our people and helps guide our shared path forward. As the judicial tribunal, we respect that mandate and are committed to working in the spirit of service to our nation to support the Otipemisiwak Metis government as a well-functioning, modern treaty nation within Canada and Alberta. Our role is to interpret the laws which often express broad principles and concepts.

Because we are still a young government, many laws do not yet have supporting guidelines or policies. As the body entrusted with interpreting those laws, we would welcome guidance from the Citizens' Council to help give the laws fuller practical meaning and to support the development of those guidelines and policies together. That guidance could emerge through additional laws or regulations as contemplated by the Constitution and existing legislation.

Or through delegated mechanisms such as a committee of the Citizens' Council engaging in arm's length discussions on the nation's vision, philosophies, and policies. Any of these approaches could help deepen shared understanding, strengthen relationships, and support effective governance. Next, I will provide a summary of the activities of the last year.

The judicial tribunal member for Battle River Territory, John Phillips, completed his two-year term on January 17th, 2026. The new member for Battle River Territory, Adam Letourneau, was appointed to a four-year term on February 16th at the meeting of the Citizens' Council. The judicial tribunal received six applications between April 1st, 2025 and March 31st, 2026.

Of the six applications received, one application was filed past the legislated deadline and was not accepted. One application was withdrawn by the applicant. The remaining four applications were heard by way of written submissions and final decisions were issued by the judicial tribunal.

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The tribunal published six decisions, two of which were interim procedural decisions on the type of evidentiary submissions that the tribunal would be accepting to support the party's application and defense, and four of which were final decisions that resulted in the completion and closure of those files. As of April 18th, 2026, the tribunal currently has two active files. In terms of administration and management of operations, the tribunal members make regular use of email communication and follow-up at scheduled meetings where the agenda is divided into consideration of formal applications before it and general operations.

Having observed the importance of some of the disputes and issues brought to the tribunal, many discussions were had amongst the tribunal members respecting numerous operational, management, educational, and procedural issues, and the importance of the tribunal developing consistent protocols, rules, and operational procedures that reflect the values of our Métis citizens and that is consistent with the intent of the framers of our constitution and consistent with the operational framework of the Otipemisiwak Métis government. The judicial tribunal also worked with the chair of the citizens council to explore the creation of formalized communication channel between the citizens council and the tribunal to enhance the ability of the tribunal to meet these objectives in a fair, independent, and just manner, consistent with Métis culture.

That process is ongoing. The tribunal received records of deliberations of the Otipemisiwak Métis government in debating the constitution and legislation to enable the tribunal to have further insight into the purpose and rationale underlying the purpose and intent of the current legislation. To the tribunal, it is important to us when interpreting our foundational documents that we understand the wishes and intent of our community.

Further, the judicial tribunal provided a unanimous recommendation to the citizens council on the remuneration structure for the judicial tribunal members, that recommendation was reviewed and approved by the citizens council at the citizens council meeting on March 19th, 2026. All decisions of the judicial tribunal are publicly available online. Thank you for your attention and thank you for inviting me to present on behalf of the judicial tribunal.

Thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you so much for the report. Chair Chartrand, is there questions or discussion to the report from the judicial tribunal? Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Chair Chartrand. Just one of the things I'm being asked by our citizens is, what is the process when the judicial tribunal receives a concern or one of the forms? And this is something that I think it would be beneficial for all of us to know, and if you can help us understand what that process looks like, we would appreciate it.

[Judicial Tribunal Chairperson Lionel Chartrand]

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Thank you for the question. There's material on the website indicating the protocol and the procedure, in short, basically an application is prepared in writing on a form. We have a clerk, Lindsay Henderson, who is available to assist in which form, there's several forms, might be appropriate.

And once it's filled out, if it meets the criteria set out in the legislation, then it goes basically to me as chair. And from there, it goes to the tribunal members, and depending on the adequacy, whether it fulfills the obligations, we may instruct Ms. Henderson to get back to the applicants to indicate what additional material might be needed. Or if it's adequate, then it goes to the committee and we debate things such as the urgency and whether we can do this by email communication or have a meeting.

Often, we will have meetings to have a full discussion. Now, in partial answer to your question, because we are fairly new, we have encountered a number of situations where applicants or potential applicants may feel insecure about how to do the procedure. So it puts the tribunal in a bit of an awkward position, if I can put it that way, because on one hand, it's very important as a tribunal that not only that we do things in a fair and just way and duly considered way, but also that we appear to show that independence and impartiality and not give accidentally an impression that we may favor one party or the other.

So that puts us in an awkward position where an applicant may go beyond the normal questions of which form should I use, or where can I get that information, and okay, you can find it here or there. Where sometimes an applicant appears to view us more as a lawyer, almost as, I think some people actually think that we're like an advocacy department or legal department, and they just can kind of call and pick our brain and ask us for an opinion. But it's very important that we don't do that, because clearly if they feel that they're aggrieved in some way and they want to file an application or a complaint against a department or an elected official or someone, we can't do a dual role of being their lawyer and also adjudicating on the claim.

So we've realized and we've had discussions as a tribunal on this issue, and this is one of these aspects where we feel as a formative, as a new organization, sharing a path forward. It would be good to have communication, because we also recognize that we're not elected, we're not elected by the people, you're elected by the people. So you represent our nation, you represent our people, and you're the ones with the mandate to decide what that intent is.

And so we're happy to be as helpful as we can to work cooperatively on the path forward to determine whether it might be appropriate to create a legal advocacy office or a liaison person that has information, that can make referrals to other people to help them put an application together. So we're very cognizant of our role and the different potential conflicts that may appear. So on one hand, while we try to be very helpful, and we try to help whoever may wish to come before the tribunal, we have to do things properly and keep to our role.

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So that might be something that as citizens council you may want to examine. I feel like I've read what's online, and I feel it's pretty thorough, but of course it can't replace an advocate or a lawyer. For sure.

And I can say that our clerk, Lindsay Henderson has been most helpful and she goes out of her way to be as helpful to our citizens as possible within our mandate. So that's been a real help. And of course, Lindsay comes with prior experience in court system.

So she's very familiar, so we work well together. So there is that issue, and I'd say, well, it would be for you as a citizen's council to have that discussion. And as chair of the tribunal, I'm happy to, if I were to be invited to give my thoughts on different issues, I think that's a good and proper avenue.

Is there anything else I can touch on?

[Representative Dunfield]
Yeah, thank you, Chair Chartrand. The other question I have is, I know we talked a little bit about process, right? But one of the things that as a citizens council, we have been CC'd on a couple of things over the last few months that have actually gone to the JT.

So in those situations, are citizens actually filing appropriately? Do they need to do something different? Or is that still something, as the judicial tribunal, you guys take into consideration and do due diligence and look at it?

Because we have been CC'd on stuff, and I wanna make sure that when our citizens are doing that, they're still getting due process. And so my question is, is that when those situations happen, and it's not necessarily going through the process that you outlined, are they still getting the due diligence that the judicial tribunal is looking at their concerns and other concerns, and taking it seriously, and moving forward on addressing it?

[Judicial Tribunal Chairperson Lionel Chartrand]
Yes, absolutely we do, 100%. Of course, as members of the tribunal, we do not control or have any ability to influence what people may do. So a citizen may very well CC the citizens council, or Mark Carney, or Danielle Smith, they can CC anyone, we can't stop that.

But that does not prevent us, under our mandate, under the Judicial Branch Act, to do what we can. However, we do not have to engage in any unconventional or irregular processes and procedures, so I'm just using a hypothetical, of course. Somebody CC's Mark Carney, I'm not gonna write a letter to Mark Carney.

But usually, most people are experienced enough to realize that some people get emotionally wrapped up in what they're doing, and they'll CC everybody, including Wayne Gretzky. I mean, I've seen that happen, and hoping Wayne can help. But Wayne can't always help, right?

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So we do what we can, or Connor McDavid, but we do what we can. But we just basically ignore that, which I'm of the view is a proper procedure. We don't comment, we're not gonna write to you to say we received it and we're doing a good job.

Because I don't feel that's part of our function, to engage in irregular processes and procedures. Does that answer your question?

[Representative Dunfield]
It does, thank you, Mr. Chair, I really appreciate that. The final question I have, and I apologize for taking up the time. But in your report that you did state the judicial tribunal is working with the chair of the citizens council to explore the creation of a formalized communication channel between the citizens council and the tribunal.

I guess my question is that I think it's really important as you stated that having that engagement with citizens council for us to understand these processes, for us to be able to even support our citizens. If there's requests and concerns to go forward to the JT, I would love to see you and I would love to see an opportunity for citizens council to engage in that process. Because I think what I will say is that there's been a couple of things where, and it's not really clear, so I'm being very transparent about that.

It's not clear in our laws and it's not clear in our constitution. For example, when the posting came out for Battle River, there were a lot of questions that were coming forward. Well, why is that posting coming out?

Citizens council hasn't seen, citizens council was not aware that the Battle River person was leaving. And then when we asked the question, we were told that a two year term was up, which is fair. But those are things that I think as citizens council, we need to be made aware of.

Just recently seen the posting for, I can't remember if it was Lower Athabasca or Lesser Slave Lake. Those are things that the citizens council, we should be made aware of. So when our citizens are contacting us saying, well, why is Lower Athabasca representative no longer going to be there?

Those are things that we need to know. And I don't know, Mr. Chair, if that's your responsibility or if that's the responsibility of, or whose responsibility it is. Because like I said, it's not really clear in our constitution or our laws.

So I think those are some of the communication processes that you mentioned that we need to solidify. So our citizens council is made aware of how we're doing things and being able to answer those questions from our citizens instead of seeing it in a communication that's going out on our social media saying, hey, we're now searching for judicial tribunals in these areas. When as citizens council, we actually haven't even been made aware of those facts.

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So I just wanted to reiterate what you said, that there should be an opportunity for yourself to come and work with us on those communication processes.

[Judicial Tribunal Chairperson Lionel Chartrand]
Yes, I think it's a two-way street, and I think the comments you make illustrate the point that I'm making. And I think it's all understandable and normal that with the new, I mean, with the Ojibwe, Mi'kmaq, Métis government, we're brand new right from the ground floor, completely new organization and new laws, and it was just an immense project to have town halls consultation with nation members to create something new, but we can't take it as a finished product. We have to build those middle floors, so we all have to work well within our own roles and communicate as best we can to flush everything out.

And it's not only us providing information to you, it goes the other way as well, because we need information from you. Because again, we're not elected, and we don't hear the citizens go to you, they don't come to us on matters of citizen issues. So we need to consult with you, we need information as well.

And so I believe it would be the role of the citizen council, it would be your role to decide, as representative of the people, what type of communication channel that might be. And I can tell you, I most welcome it. I believe you're 100% right, we need that.

I encourage it, and I would be most happy to participate in that, because I think that's the best way to go forward. Because we're all one, and the strength of our organization and our nation depends on us working as one together and having that understanding. We can't work well on a common purpose if we don't know enough about one another.

And there might be misunderstanding, or I might assume that you know this, but you don't, and you may assume that I know this other thing, but I don't. So we need to talk, and of course, the different levels of government, and as a judicial tribunal, there has to be that independence and impartiality. So there needs to be, that's why I think we need a formal mechanism, because there can't be the impression of dealing with specific cases that come before the tribunal.

But there's certainly a lot that we can work on to determine the best functions, and role, and practical processes, and procedures of the tribunal. Thank you for your questions.

[Chair]
With respect to your question around, for example, the nomination processes and recall for those Representative Dunfield, I guess I agree, and Lionel are trying to find that pathway to council that allows for that advice without complicating where if someone wanted to challenge legislation, the tribunal was giving advice into the development of that legislation, how do they do that, and who would hear that, right?

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So we've had their submissions come to the last two or three council meetings for that reason. But I take on to the nomination process question and the term limits. So that was a decision by this council in a motion to set those term limits for those members.

How, and I put this to council, in hearing the communication questions from Judicial Tribunal's report, and hearing the questions of the chair about how do we stay abreast of these things, how can we help you? Like, what can we do to help you? Because we 100% don't want you guys sitting on your hands or caught off guard by citizens' questions.

But if it's a decision that you folks made, we aren't necessarily gonna flag that we need to bring it back and kind of have it re-reminded. So if council can give us some feedback on how to bring those back to you guys, that would be great for the office of the chair as well. So if it's a clerk set up process or not, or those interactions.

Secretary Bramfield?

[Secretary Bramfield]
I wasn't sure if she wanted to ask that.

[Chair]
Sure, go ahead Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, I appreciate that. And I think, I do recall that we did make that motion, but I think one of the things is time flies.

You don't necessarily keep track of the time. So for me, it would just be a simple email communication to citizens council saying, a reminder that this territory's representative is no longer, or their term is coming up, will be posting the position. I think something as simple as that, I would be more than comfortable with.

With that being said though too, I do wanna ask what the process is. Cuz I would be prepared to make a motion that a committee be struck of representatives from the territory to work and president. And the provincial secretary of women, and the provincial, or sorry, the provincial women's rep and the provincial youth rep to strike a committee to work with the judicial tribunal on some of those communication processes.

And really establishing how we can work together without interference, of course. But for me, it's about the communication piece and how we can make sure that we're getting the information in it. The information that our citizens are asking us that we might not necessarily see except for once a year when we're presented with a report.

So Mr. Chair, what is the process for that? I'm prepared to make a motion to strike a committee made up of representatives. And I see our legal counsel's light is on, so I will stop talking.

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[Chair]
Legal counsel, thoughts?

[Legal Counsel James Henry]
Can we put a pin in that and can I think about this over lunch? I'm just very cognizant of the bifurcation and partition between the judicial branch and the legislative one. And I just want to get this right, because technically what our judicial committee does is they settle any disputes and disagreements with respect to interpretations of legislation.

So we have to approach this very, very cautiously. So I just want to take the time to actually think this through before we make any motion. So is there any ability to hold on to this until after lunch?

[Chair]
I mean, I can add to that from the Office of the Chair's perspective. That is exactly the, when Chair Chartrand met with me back in March, and we kind of talked through this preliminarily. That is exactly the finessing that we're trying to do to try and find a process that doesn't blur the line so far beyond the arm's length versus the legislative versus judicial.

That we end up in a position where a decision can't be challenged without leaving our system and going into the courts to challenge it. So that is the complications we've been trying to work through, and I honestly don't have the answer for you yet. We have spun it a bunch of different ways for administration with the help of our other legal counsel, and now Mr. Henry has to be brought up to speed. But we will be bringing a recommendation. I genuinely cannot speak to what it is right now, because we haven't found a solution that seems to fit and maintain all of those separations the Constitution requires yet. But it is something that we have spent significant hours on and will continue to.

And I think you'll probably hear back from us and the chair this summer before gathering. So that we have some semblance of what council could consider for a mechanism that does that. We just haven't been able to get through the due diligence on it to make sure that you're all protected.

[Representative Dunfield]
No, I appreciate that, Mr. Chair. And maybe one of the things I'll ask our legal to do as well, and I'm being absolutely transparent here, is that when we're looking at that piece, we also have to keep in consideration that our chair is also the senior director for self-government. So making sure that whatever communication or things that are happening, that there is still that separation from administration.

If we're talking about separation from our legislative body of the Citizens Council, we also need to make sure that there's still that separation between administration, because our chair does hold dual roles, and we need to be very cognizant of that when we're developing these processes.

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[Chair]
Thank you. Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]
Just a suggestion, instead of making another committee, can we do that through the nominations committee, because we can make the council aware of an upcoming end of term, instead of making another committee?

[Legal Counsel James Henry]
Can you let me think about it? Guys, these are tough questions. This is fantastic, but it's a tough question, and I just need to grapple with it for a little bit.

[Chair]
Secretary Bramfield.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you, Chair Chartrand, so much for coming and speaking with us. I really appreciate it and enjoy the conversation with you. I totally agree that we're a young government and there's so much work to do, and that it's the council that needs to build the government and work together.

And I would welcome working together, of course, obviously respecting that. Maybe we need to figure out how we do that. And you mentioned that this guidance could emerge through additional laws or regulations as contemplated by the constitution existing legislation, and that you've encountered some challenges just because the many laws do not yet have supporting guidelines or policies.

And while you're entrusted with interpreting the laws, you're welcome giving guidance to help give the laws fuller practical meaning and to support the development of those guidelines and policies together. So I really appreciate that, and I would support that once some of that legal stuff is figured out. But because when my district, when it was still a local McMurray-Métis, they had requested that we do a review of the laws, and there is an active resolution to do that based on many of the things that you've brought forward in your report today.

And so I would just like to thank you, and I agree with you. And with that, just that there's discussions about committee. I know, James, you're thinking about certain things, but there is an active resolution to review the laws, and I have requested that as an agenda item.

So I'm hoping it can come to the next agenda item, because that all feeds into what we're talking about. But I would, of course, love to work with you. Thank you.

[Judicial Tribunal Chairperson Lionel Chartrand]
Okay, thank you.

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[Chair]
Any further discussion, questions, commentary to the report of the judicial branch? I'm sorry. Seeing none, is there anyone who wishes- Oh, Mr. Chair, sorry, I did have one more question, I forgot. Secretary Bramfield, go ahead.

[Secretary Bramfield]
And thanks, because I've also been asked many questions about the GT and the process and how, and whatever else. So just to confirm, when an application is submitted or a concern is submitted, the clerk reviews it first and determines whether or not it meets the criteria before coming to you. Is that the current process?

[Judicial Tribunal Chairperson Lionel Chartrand]
Well, the clerk has the mandate to review its compliance with the rules and regulations, but in every case, the clerk will report to me. And to be helpful, she may cite some of the legislation sections or whatever, and give thoughts on process and procedure. But it is for the tribunal to make the final decision on how to go forward.

So it could be communication back to the applicants on addressing some inadequacies, or it could be any number of things. So there's no one answer on how things are handled. But yes, the applications firstly go to the clerk who does an initial screening.

But we always have a look at it.

[Chair]
Okay, thank you.

[Judicial Tribunal Chairperson Lionel Chartrand]
Thank you.

[Chair]
Additional discussion, questions? Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
No, Mr. Chair, I am prepared to make the motion that be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that the Judicial Tribunal Annual Report presented at the May 21st Citizens' Council meeting be accepted for information as presented.

[Chair]
Very good. The motion is so read. Is there a seconder?

Secretary Chodzicki. Any further discussion, debate? Seeing none, is there any opposition to the motion?

Motion carried by consensus. Report is so accepted, and I trust we'll hear it at the Citizens' Gathering. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

[Judicial Tribunal Chairperson Lionel Chartrand]

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Thank you for your invitation. Thank you. Thank you.

[Chair]
Okay, Council, we are exactly on track, time-wise, for the agenda. Despite the addition that puts us at the break for our lunch, Council will stand in recess until 1.15. And I will call on our elder to offer a blessing for our meal, please.

[Elder Doreen Bergum]
God, our creator. We welcome you today with grateful hearts. Grateful for the water, grateful for the sun, grateful for the wind, grateful for the family, grateful for the Métis kinship we share today.

God, our creator, give us blessings for the food we are about to receive. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

[Chair]
Thank you, Elder Doreen. We'll see you all back at 1.15.

So we will call the meeting back to order. I have 1.15, puts us right on time. I keep mentioning the time. I will note that the agenda we have today is based on the fact that both the Acting Chair and I do have to leave when the agenda time ends, which is 5.40. So we will be stopping regardless of kind of where we're at on the agenda at 5.40. So that said, our next agenda item is item number 7A, which is the Citizens Council Report to Citizens Gathering. Madam President, I will turn the floor over to you.

[President Sandmaier]
Thank you, Chair. So in your packages, you have a draft or template of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Annual Report from Citizens Council. I know Secretary Leddy has brought to my attention one fix, just so you know, Maddie.

Under Emergency Management Committee of Citizens Council, it should read as of May 2025.

[Secretary Leddy]
Is that the only one? I guess my question is, is that supposed to be like when I took over the chair position as a secretary, or just as of the month that this was crafted for?

[Policy Analyst Maddie Aldridge]
It was intended to be the month that it was crafted for to say, as of this date, this is up to date, and these are the people that sit on the council.

[Secretary Leddy]
But if the wording's unclear, I can change that. No, I think that makes sense now that I know that. Then I'm fine with how it is written.

[President Sandmaier]

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Thank you. Has everybody had a chance to read it?

[Chair]
Council, we need a minute, is ultimately the question. Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. Page four on Citizens Council Rules of Procedure. Just wanted to clarify, it says throughout the 2025-26 reporting period, the Citizens Council continued to work to refine and develop a draft set of rules governing the practices and procedures of the Citizens Council.

That's incorrect. We haven't had a meeting since March 2025. I would ask that the Citizens Council Rules of Procedure be struck from the report.

[Chair]
Madam President?

[President Sandmaier]
I'm not sure if it should be completely struck. I think taking out what you've highlighted about the work that's been done this year can be taken out, but I still think it needs to be in there, because it will be ongoing work that we're doing throughout, probably forever.

[Representative Dunfield]
So, just to clarify then, is this report for the, sorry, what is the timeline for this report? Is it April 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2026? Would that be correct?

Yes, and it goes into our annual report that we give out at Citizens Gathering. Okay. So, like I said, we haven't done anything on this for the April 1st, March 2025 to March 31st, 2026.

So, I would suggest that even if you want to just say that Citizens Council Rules of Procedure will be meeting in June 2026 to restart the process, I'm okay with that. But as it stands right now, we actually haven't done anything since March 2025. If this is on, it's stated that way.

[Policy Analyst Maddie Aldridge]
I know we haven't had any workshops or anything since last year, but throughout the regular council meetings, during the process of holding them, members have identified things that we have noted for the development of rules and procedures. So, even though we haven't had a dedicated session, progress has still been made, and work is being done to further refine what it should look like. So, it's not technically incorrect, but if you have issues with it, we can discuss that further.

[Representative Dunfield]
Like I said, I think we just need to be transparent to our citizens and just really clearly state that work will continue in June 2026.

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[Policy Analyst Maddie Aldridge]
I understand that. I think I'm not getting where the point of inaccuracy is, because I think as it's stated, it's vague enough that it is not inaccurate.

[Representative Dunfield]
Could you clarify what you mean? Well, technically it is inaccurate, because this is not work of the Citizens' Council. As you stated, that there's individual citizens and representatives that have come to you and flag concerns.

I think that if we're talking about work of the Citizens' Council on the rules or procedure, as Citizens' Council, we have not done that work since March 2025. And really what I'm saying is, we don't want anything vague going to our citizens, because as representatives, we are gonna have to answer questions at the gathering around, what have you done on this? And like I said, if we say that we're meeting in June 2026, by the time the gathering comes, then we can say, we've met again in June 2026 and here are the things that I can report back to you.

But as it stands right now, we actually haven't done any work since March 2025 as Citizens' Council.

[Policy Analyst Maddie Aldridge]
The comments that we have on rules of procedure over the last year have been in Citizens' Council meetings by Citizens' Council members, and it hasn't been individual people coming to us directly. There has been discussion over items. So I'm not sure if that helps at all, but we can change the language if you have suggestions for how it should go.

No, I actually think we should change it. We should change it.

[Chair]
Yeah.

[Secretary Lavallee]
Yeah, I'm also just trying to understand as well, because I know there's been a lot of times where us as Citizens' Council have been discussing something in our meetings, and then we all agreed that this should go in the rules of procedure. So I think throughout the 2025-2026 is accurate. I mean, you can't get any more, because even with the June meeting coming up, that's still well within 2026.

So I think the wording is fine, and I'm just trying to understand why we need the clarification when it technically still is true, because we have discussed various things within Citizens' Council and agreed as Citizens' Council that it can go into the rules of procedure. So I think that would still count as working on the rules of procedure. I'm also just trying to understand, because I think the wording is fine as is.

[Chair]
Thank you, Secretary Lavallee. Secretary Leddy?

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[Secretary Leddy]
Yes, I was going to agree with Secretary Lavallee on that, especially because as we've come across gaps in that, there's been many a times where the thought and the discussion has gone to this would be better addressed through rules of procedure, and we write that down, we refer that to be pushed to be decided within that. So I felt like we have continued perhaps the work in not as in, like, defining exactly what the rules of procedure look like, but of the areas in which we would want the rules of procedure to address. So I feel very comfortable with this section within the report.

And I, I like that being able to let citizens know in this report that this is top of mind for our council and something that we want to continue to work on and hopefully have finished.

[Chair]
President Sandmeier?

[President Sandmaier]
Yeah, I, I also agree with Secretary Lavallee that there has been often things that we have discussed at the table that administration has taken into consideration, and there, I believe there's even suggestions in the chair's report on things that we need to bring into that rules of procedure conversation. So I, I'm fine with it staying the way that it is. We're working towards next steps.

There have been competing priorities with pieces of legislation and other work that we've need, needed to get, get done. And there is, you know, no timeline or deadline in the, the constitution or our laws on the rules of procedure. It's up to this table and to learn as, to learn lessons as we go and bring it all back together.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Thank you. I just have a, a friendly suggestion for just a little bit of rewording. Not I do, I do think it's important that we include it on here as it is continuing work, we may not have met on it in the last year, but to be more accurate and to address Representative Dunfield's concerns, what we can do is just change that first paragraph to say an initial workshop was held in March 2025.

A second workshop will be held in June of 2026 to discuss the, the key procedural areas requiring further discussion and consideration. It doesn't imply that we have done any work. We're not reporting on work that hasn't been done.

We are acknowledging that we had an initial workshop and that we have one coming up and, and it does, and it doesn't actually remove any of the key message. It just more

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accurately states what work has been done if, if that suggestion is if you're, if we're willing to consider that suggestion.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield?

[Representative Dunfield]
No, thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, after listening to everybody, I do agree. I was gonna say the same thing.

What I would, what I would suggest that is then we move the second paragraph to the first paragraph and say, once finalized and adopted, these rules will help ensure that the work of council, particularly within meetings, is carried out in a consistent, accountable, and responsible manner. The development of these procedures is intended to strengthen transparency in the conduct of citizens council business and establish a solid foundation for future citizens council meetings. Building on the initial workshop held in March 2025, council member and, and additional workshop coming in June 2026, council members continue to identify and flag key procedural areas requiring further discussion and consideration.

So basically moving the first paragraph to the, to the, the, the second paragraph to be the start of it. Take out the line the first line in the first paragraph and then and then finish off with the building on. I think if we just switch the wording, I would be more comfortable with that.

[Chair]
Any further discussion on, do you want to just deal with that point first or do you want to deal with the totality of the report, Madam President? Oh, sorry, I didn't catch the online hand. Go ahead, Secretary Lavallee.

[Secretary Lavallee]
Yeah. I'm also just wondering about then would we have to add wording saying that like, technically within our citizens council meetings, we were still bringing recommendations forward to go to rules of procedure as we identified it, just because we're doing things for transparency and, and defining exactly what we did for the rules of procedure. Would we have to add that as well?

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield?

[Representative Dunfield]
I would say that's addressed in that second line of the first paragraph, building on the initial workshop and held March 2025 and including the wording from representative Paula Look and the next workshop in June 2026, council members continue to identify, we can use the word continued to identify and flag key procedural areas requiring further discussion and consideration informed by both historical Métis governance practices and the operational

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needs of citizens council. So it would address what Secretary LaValle is saying by saying, using the word continued that we, and, you know, flagging those things that have been raised in council meetings as, as discussed.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Sorry, I don't know if I really need to add anything to that. I think that my suggestion wasn't to actually remove anything. I think that the wording just could be switched around a little bit to address the concerns that representative Dunfield brought forward.

[Chair]
Okay, Madam President, back to you.

[President Sandmaier]
Yeah, I think that that will cover everything that everybody's brought up. I think unless anybody else has anything. Do you, did you get that, Maddie?

[Policy Analyst Maddie Aldridge]
I might have missed some of it, but I'll connect with representative Dunfield and make sure that I have the correct wording.

[President Sandmaier]
Yeah, and also, yeah, Rebecca, Secretary Lavallee as well.

[Policy Analyst Maddie Aldridge]
Yes, and Secretary LaValle.

[President Sandmaier]
Thank you.

[Policy Analyst Maddie Aldridge]
I'll connect with both of them. Thank you.

[Chair]
Okay, council, further discussion on the citizens council report then? Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]
I'm just, when I'm looking at the artifact repatriation committee. I'm just wondering if it would be some value to add the old Royal Alberta Museum possibility in there, or no?

[President Sandmaier]
I don't think we should yet. We haven't even had a meeting with them, so.

[Chair]
Okay.

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[Secretary Lacombe]
Yeah. No, that's fine, thanks.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Just, just wondering, under the committee sections, some of the committees, there's just like a definition of what the committee is in some of them. And it, it goes on to kind of explain the work. Just wondering if there's a, a need to kind of have it consistent, and, or if it's, if it's fine to just introduce it.

For some of the, like, for some of the committees, it just says that this is what the committee is, and this is, these are the members. And then there are others that go on to say that this is what they've accomplished, or this is what they've done. This is just wondering if, if there needs to be a consistency there.

Or, I mean, I'm, I'm assuming that that could raise questions for citizens if we're explaining more on one than the other.

[Chair]
President, any thoughts?

[President Sandmaier]
I guess I'm not sure what, which ones are you referring to that might help.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
So the fir, the first one, the traditional economic practices committee. It just introduces that committee. The legislative review committee also just introduces the committee.

The nomination committee actually has introduces the committee and the members. But then there's a couple of extra paragraphs that actually explain the work. Similarly for the emergency management committee.

The district relations and transition committee of cabinet. And then the artifact repatriation committee. There's the, kind of the description of the committee, but also, also a description of the work that's being done.

President?

[President Sandmaier]
I didn't see any reason, I don't, I don't know if I see a reason to change it. Like, I think the nomination committee has been probably the busiest of all the committees, and I think we need to have a full explanation on the nomination committee, given that they have done a lot of work with the different officer appointments. Some of the committees haven't been as busy, but I think at least explaining what their purpose is, is a good idea.

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[Chair]
Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]
In regards to the traditional economic practices committee, the choppers committee. I, I think that's fine the way it stands. Because, I just won't guarantee you that all will be talked about when Craig and myself get on stage, and, and talk about this.

I think, I think all the points were hit on that. So I, personally, I don't think anything should be changed in that. Secretary Bramfield.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you. On page one, under legislation, I see we have the live streaming regulation, and we refer to developing a legislative process. I'm just wondering if the, the privacy legislation, the work on the privacy legislation should be included in here at all.

I know we do have a timeline, and, you know, we've done a lot of work, and we've consulted district captains yes, I'm just wondering the privacy legislation. I, I do, it is included in my, in my, in my report. But, maybe it should also be included here.

[Chair]
President, should we include the development of the different legislative and regulatory instruments? I think that's probably good information.

[Representative Dunfield]
Yeah, I think that's good information. Thanks for bringing that.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just wanted to click on page six, the photos and graphics. Was that just something that was there?

It's not actually going to be part of the report. This is the template. Okay.

So, we're working from a draft.

[President Sandmaier]
Okay. It says right on the top, it's a template.

[Representative Dunfield]
Well, no, I know that, but I was like, what is photos and graphics, and why does it have that there? So, I just wanted to clarify, so thank you for that.

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[Chair]
Further discussion on the council report? Okay, sounds like administration has some direction to take back and make some changes and bring it back. Does someone want to make a motion to refer this to administration to bring back the edits as discussed?

Secretary Chodzicki, Vice Secretary Leddy, any opposition? I see none, the motion carries, administration so directed. We're good, thank you very much, Maddie, thank you, Madam President.

That takes us into agenda item 8A, which is the officer reports continuation. And we will invite the Auditor General to join us to deliver the Auditor General annual report on activities and operations for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Mr. Auditor General, the floor is all yours, have at it.

[Auditor General Ruben Jeffrey]
Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you very much for having me out to the gathering. I prepared a brief report, I think everyone's got a copy of it.

I can read through it if you want, I don't know if you're behind or whatever, but I'll just start reading through it. And if anyone has any questions, please feel free to just shout out, okay? So my mandate was originally pointed as the Auditor General on November 30th, 2023.

As such, I've been in the role of the Auditor General for the entire fiscal year of April 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2026. As outlined in the Financial Management Act, the Auditor General must cause an annual consolidated audited financial statement for the OMG, furthermore, it is the responsibility of the Auditor General to ensure the audited financial statements are made available to all citizens. So for the fiscal year, last year of 25-26, the financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 2025, were audited by Kingston Ross Pasnak.

The audited financial statements were presented to and formally approved by the Citizens' Council on August 13th, 2025. On August 23rd, 2025, the 97th annual Citizens' Gathering occurred and the financial statements were distributed, and I also delivered a presentation. Besides that, there's a lot of other stuff that I do during the year, not just those two events, and I went through and I put a little summary here of some of the items that have occurred throughout the past year, some of the key dates and key meetings, okay?

April 7th, I attended an affiliate board meeting. April 9th, I attended a meeting with the OMG finance team. On April 11th, I attended a meeting with the finance team again.

On April 17th, I attended the Citizens' Council meeting. On July 23rd, I attended an affiliate board meeting to review the March 31st, 2025 financial statements. July 24th, I attended an affiliate board meeting to review the March 31st, 2025 financial statements.

July 30th, I attended an affiliate board meeting to review the March 31st, 2025 financial statements. On July 31st, I participated in the annual general meeting of an affiliate. August

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13th, I attended the OMG Citizens' Council meeting and presented the March 31st, 2025 financial statements.

On August 23rd, I attended the annual Citizens' Gathering and presented the financial statements at that. September 12th, I participated in a strategic planning session related to the transition for one of the affiliates. On the 22nd, I attended an affiliate board meeting to review the March 31st, 2025 financial statements.

On October 14th, I participated in strategic planning sessions related to the transition of an affiliate that was mentioned earlier. On November 20th, I participated in a meeting with the OMG legal team to discuss some of the specifics with regard to financial statement disclosure. On December 1st, I attended a meeting with the Director of Human Resources On the 9th, I attended an OMG cabinet meeting for a briefing on some of the roles with shareholders, board of directors, and management.

On the 15th, I attended an affiliate board meeting to review the March 31st, 2025 financial statements. February 7th, I delivered a presentation on the December 31st, 2025 financial statements of an affiliate. On February 12th, I participated in a shareholder meeting of an affiliate.

On February 26th, I participated in a meeting regarding purchasing and procurement regulation. With regard to the planning of the current year fiscal financial statements for the year ended March 31st, 2026, my office is very active at this time. This is actually the busiest time of the year because we're in the midst of getting all the audits started and all of the affiliate audits are in process now.

I can say it's, you know, what, the 21st, which is pretty good. And in and around that, one of the things that I've been working on as well is reaching out to each of the districts and trying to have a meeting with each of the districts just to chat with them about what some of their requirements are with regard to what the reporting requirements are. And other than that, I have really not done much.

Are there any questions?

[Chair]
Yes, thank you, Auditor General. Are there any questions from the Council? I see Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Just a clarification, Chair. So on the actual report, it says for the motion is information is presented, but under the classification it says decision. Should that be information?

[Chair]
I have to go from assumption. That is probably either an old template or just a wrong checked box.

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[Legal Counsel James Henry]
You are deciding whether or not you're accepting it for information, but I know it's confusing.

[Chair]
I don't really have a clear answer for you. I do. Oh, he's back.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you. Okay, thank you.

[Chair]
So a decision to accept a report for information is still a decision by resolution of Council, so it's for decision.

[Representative Dunfield]
Okay, no, thank you. And sorry, Ruben, great job.

[Auditor General Jeffrey]
You were very busy. I was busier.

[Chair]
Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Is there any other concerns or questions? Because I'm ready to do a motion on this if you'd like me to read it.

[Chair]
I would love that.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Excellent. So be it resolved by Citizen Council that the Auditor General's report, annual report presented at May 21st, 2026, at the Citizen's Council meeting be accepted for information as presented. Thank you.

[Chair]
Motion is on the floor from Secretary Lisa Wolfe. Is there a seconder? Secretary Chodzicki seconds.

Is there further discussion in respect to the report from the Auditor General? Debate? Is there any opposition to the motion as read?

No opposition. The motion carries. The report is so accepted, and we will see you at Citizens Gathering.

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Thank you very much for having me out. We'll see you soon. Just banging right along, Council.

Thank you kindly for your efficiency. That takes us to Agenda Item Number 9A, which is the Environment and Climate Change Update. We'll turn it over to the Secretary of Environment and Climate Change and Emergency Management, Secretary Leddy.

The floor is all yours.

[Secretary Leddy]
Awesome. Thank you. So I'm just going to take us through the briefing note.

So these are the department highlights that have come up. Starting with the Water Guardians Program, Otipemisiwak Métis government citizens consistently identify water quality, water levels, and water supply as environmental concerns, most recently during the 2023 ASCII re-engagements. My apologies.

I'm reading, and I'm going a little fast in my brain. I'll slow down. In response, ECC developed a community-based water quality monitoring program and secured funding from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to launch it.

The Otipemisiwak Métis government has partnered with the Alberta Lake Management Society, ALMS, on the Askiy Water Guardians Program, a pilot initiative which will be similar to the ALMS-led Lake Keepers Program. As a pilot initiative, capacity for the 2026 intake was limited to 10 water guardians, five pairs, due to limited funding, limited internal capacity, and to ensure effective program delivery. Applications for the program opened on December 4th, 2025, and closed on February 28th, 2026.

The Environment and Climate Change Department received a total of 101 applications. Due to a high volume of applications, the ECC department established the following selection process to select 10 individuals. Priority given to groups rather than individual applicants.

Priority given to groups with access to a boat. Priority given to groups that selected lakes that are not currently monitored by ALMS to reduce duplication of efforts. Because of a high number of applicants still meeting the criteria above, a random selection was necessary to limit the selection to 10 individuals.

Successful applicants have been notified. The successful candidates will undergo three days of training and must commit approximately two days per month for monitoring activities during the open water season. Online training will take place on April 21st, 2026, and in-person training will take place on May 21st to 22nd, 2026, at Camp Warwa on Lac Ste. Anne.

Water Guardian monitoring locations for 2026 include District 4 Eagle Lake, District 7 Shining Bank Lake, thank you for the corrections, Secretary Lacombe on the pronunciation, District 8 Chip Lake, District 20 Hanmore Lake, District 20 Goose Lake. A total of 89 applicants has been retained to support future program expansion. These applicants will be

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made aware of future intake opportunities as additional resources and program capacity become available.

A notice referencing the Water Guardian's program was shared in error in the April 4th, 2026 edition of the Voyager Voice after the application intake had closed. Please note that no additional applications were accepted beyond the original February 28th, 2026 deadline. For the heat response program, with the changing climate, Otipemisiwak Métis government citizens have been experiencing more frequent periods of extreme heat, often accompanied by poor air quality starting earlier in the spring and extending later into the fall.

People over the age of 60 are disproportionately affected by extreme heat. Seniors have expressed concerns at various ECC engagements, booths, and surveys about experiencing troubles keeping cool, healthy, and social during these extreme weather events. To address this, the ECC department launched a new pilot program to provide cooling kits, including air conditioners and other resources and materials to 50 Otipemisiwak Métis government citizens aged 60 plus across Alberta.

Each kit will include one air conditioning unit, handling information, other cooling items, cooling bandana, thermometer, collapsible fan, an energy efficiency kit, LED light bulbs, weather stripping, et cetera, and signs of and treatment for heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Registrants of the program have the choice of two air conditioning units, one portable and one window. To meet eligibility criteria, they must be age 60 plus, a current Otipemisiwak Métis government citizen, and reside in Alberta.

Registration was open April 17th to April 26th. Over 800 registrations were received. 50 recipients have been selected through a random draw.

All who are receiving a kit have been notified, and we are confirming their mailing addresses. All those who are not receiving kit have also been notified. Shipping is expected to start in two weeks.

New IPCA purchases. ECC secured additional lands in early 2026 to establish new indigenous protected and conserved areas, IPCAs. The following are short descriptions of these properties.

163 acres of intact forest and wetland habitat along the southern lakeshore in Lac La Biche County. The purchase is intended to prevent the loss of biodiversity by protecting intact habitats and the species who rely on them. 59 acres of tame native grassland and coulee habitat in rural Wheatland County.

The purchase is intended to prevent conversion of native habitat to cropland, which would result in biodiversity loss and degrade carbon storage capacity of the land. Citizens-led monitoring open surveys. ECC monitoring surveys support the collection of consistent long-term environmental data to understand ecosystem health, seasonal change, and potential impacts on lands and waters.

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These surveys combine technical monitoring methods with local knowledge to inform stewardship, management decisions, and future monitoring programs. Fish monitoring. Seasonal surveys conducted in winter, January to March.

Summer, June to August, and Fall, September to December. In the briefing note, you'll see that there was a link to find the surveys. For wildlife monitoring, year-round programming with seasonal intakes open April 1st, September 1st, and January 1st.

Again, there is a link in the briefing note to find the surveys. Berry monitoring. The field season runs July to October with survey intakes opening in April and additional opportunities in September.

And again, you can find the links in the briefing note provided. Some upcoming events is the Green Economy Gatherings. ECC is partnering with Iron and Earth to host five in-person Green Economy Gatherings from May to June 2026.

The following dates and locations have been selected. The first one has already passed, which was May 9th in Edmonton. We have May 30th in Fort McMurray, June 6th, Calgary, June 7th, Medicine Hat, June 20th, Grand Prairie.

These events will feature Green Economy mentors for career guidance, opportunities to network with industry professionals, and resources for learning about renewable energy and other Green Economy sectors. These gatherings aim to engage citizens in the just energy transition through awareness and education while advancing capacity building and community involvement. In 2024, Otipemisiwak Métis Government Citizens expressed desire for more opportunities for community engagement and education on the energy transition.

You can see the Energy and Climate Community Engagement Sessions 2024 full report with the link provided in the briefing note. The gatherings seek to address this need. Otipemisiwak Métis Government Citizens Council is invited to attend, participate, and raise awareness as appropriate regarding the gatherings.

Please register at the form with the link provided in the briefing note. Registrations are encouraged and drop-ins are welcome. And the other upcoming event is our FireSmart Workshop.

This is a pilot workshop to train up to 20 citizens in FireSmart 101 practices. Will be held on May 29th from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Mundare Seniors Citizen Center, 5224 50th Street, Mundare, Alberta. There will be a wide range of speakers who will discuss wildfire risk.

A guided tour will also be constructed of... Oh, I've been practicing the name of the ITCA, so I'm sorry if it does not go well. Muskoseya Ispikaa’pawew, I butchered it, I'm sorry, which is south of Mundare, to observe a FireSmart live demonstration.

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Transportation will be provided to the IPCA. The aim is to empower citizens with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to reduce their risk of wildfire impacts through proactive, practical actions at the household level. This workshop will support participants in identifying wildfire risks in and around their homes and applying FireSmart principles to effectively mitigate them.

Citizens can sign up for this event by emailing wildfires at metis.org. And then if you look in the appendices, there's the event details for the green economy gatherings.

[Chair]
Well done, Madam Secretary. Representative Paul-Alook, a question to the report?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Yes, thank you. Congratulations on a very busy year. The Environment and Climate Change Department has done a lot of really great, carried out a lot of really great successful initiatives.

The questions that I have, first are about the Askiy Water Guardians Program. I do see this as a really valuable opportunity for citizens to get engaged in water monitoring. Just wondering if there can be, I understand the grant that it was applied for, I did actually look into it, and I know that the application was made specifically targeting lakes within the province.

Just a suggestion, we have a lot of industry projects coming up that have the potential to impact some of the bodies of water outside of lakes, mainly our rivers in several districts, and I think that applying the work that's being done for this lake monitoring to actually collaborate a little bit with the consultation department and with the districts themselves that are carrying out this work of consultation and taking on some of the community environmental monitoring initiatives, I think there's a really great opportunity for collaboration there, and I understand that the current grant is limited to lakes, but if there is a willingness to explore some opportunities for collaboration there with both the consultation department and the districts themselves in their work of consulting, I think that there's some real potential to actually expand it and to make some of this work actually applicable to some of the things that are happening in our districts as far as industry and things like that go. The other comment that I have about the Fire Smart Workshop, so you may not have noticed, but on the posting that was shared on our social media, I did actually comment, you know, we have a very large province and not a lot of people are going to actually be able to be hosted but also be able to register and attend just because of distance and everything else. The Fire Smart 101 course is actually a free online course that anybody, any person can register for online.

I did actually enter that in the comment section under this post on social media so that it's more widely, obviously they're not going to get the same experience with the in-person engagement with some of our Métis citizens who are involved in like wildfire fighting and all

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of the planned speakers that you have, but the actual training itself is available free to anybody who wants to register and I would suggest that it would be a great way to offer it to people who aren't able to attend in person that they can still actually have access to this free information through that link if we can add that to the social media posting, not just in the comment sections, not everybody looks in the comment sections but I did share it there so if you're not sure where the link is, you can find it in there.

Thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you, Representative Paul-Alook. Representative Ward.

[Representative Ward]
Thank you very much, Secretary Leddy. And I see that we do have some Green Economy gatherings that are happening in Calgary and Medicine Hat and I do believe they're on the website but if you are in the future, just something to consider when these are being posted on the website, if you could also contact the districts in the area, I think that would help us to promote it in those areas because I checked back at my emails, I just didn't see anything but just something to consider in the future so that we can get better attendance so that we can also put them on our websites and our own social media, please.

[Chair]
Thank you, Representative Ward. Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]
Thanks, Secretary Leddy. That was a great presentation. So my questions are on the IPCAs, the purchases.

So the 163 acres, that's along the lakeshore of Lac Le Biche, correct? Yeah, just the county part got me a little bit confused there, that's all. I thought it could be another body of water over there.

But so that one and the 59 acres, like when you look at those small pieces, parcels of land, they're just as important as those big ones, right? Because of what's happening, what has always happened there in the diversity of that land. To convert that over to farmland would be an injustice, really.

So where is that? Can you tell me where that is? Or do you know?

I would just like to see the top, like a topic.

[Secretary Leddy]
Yeah, so I do have Jordan with the Environment and Climate Change Department here who does a lot of work with the IPCAs. It's kind of his thing. So Jordan, if you wanted to maybe talk a little bit about the IPCAs and the purchase of those two properties, that would be fantastic.

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[Conservation Manager Jordan York]
Sure, I can do that. Can everybody hear me okay?

[Chair]
We can hear you, go ahead.

[Conservation Manager Jordan York]
Great, thanks. Yeah, so thanks everybody for bringing me along to address you today and answer some of your questions here, specifically on the IPCA purchases. We do have two properties there that are listed in the briefing note.

I can share more details with you afterwards if you'd like. I can send more there with showing you pictures of the landscape maps, whatever you guys would like to. I apologize if it wasn't detailed enough in the briefing note today.

For the Lac La Biche property in particular, as Secretary Lacombe was asking, this one's on the south shore of the lake. I believe it's probably about a 15, 20-minute drive heading west from Lac La Biche, the actual town. And it is a former river lot property, or I guess the long lot property that's been settled there.

So traditional settlement kind of tied into some of the early property maps as well, which was a consideration when we were going to potentially purchase it. It's right by a lagoon, if that's also useful. There's a marine lagoon, I think it's called.

It's an ACA property. It's also owned by the province, but managed by the ACA, and it borders that. And I believe it's also by an old private runway for an airport or something like that.

It might've been taken off, but I can provide you with maps, pictures, and more specific detailed location for you and for all council if they'd like to see. For the rural Wheatland County, while we're still on just the broader conversation, that one is about a 45-minute drive heading east from Calgary. It is over close to, I believe it's the Oldman River.

I'll bring that up again. But it is close to the river, but not on the riverfront. It is a piece of property that was once, I guess, utilized for farming, hay production in particular.

There's a very coolie habitat there that goes in and has a lot of native plants that are in it. It was secured primarily because it has native grasslands that are there, so there's a lot of old native species that can be protected in there, both in the coolie and both in the grassland as well. And there's a lot of agricultural production around there.

And again, I can go and share more pictures, more details with you guys on it as well.

[Chair]
Secretary Lacombe?

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[Secretary Lacombe]
Yeah, thanks, Jordan. Yeah, those sound like great purchases, especially that 59 acres.

It's nice to see you getting those small pieces too. They're really important. I appreciate all the work that you do too.

[Chair]
Very good. I know you were on the speaking list as well. Go ahead, Secretary.

[Secretary Blatz]
I just wanted to say thank you to Secretary Leddy for all of your work on this. This was an awesome report to read. And obviously, the work you're doing is being seen by lots of people, seeing as how there's 101 applicants.

That's amazing. And speaks very well to the success of this program. And I really hope that it gets expanded in the future.

So, really great work.

[Chair]
Thank you, Madam Secretary. Madam President?

[President Sandmaier]
Yes, and I am going to also say thank you very much, Secretary Leddy, for all of the work that you've been doing over the last year. And also to the Environment and Climate Change team. I cannot say enough about the work that this team is doing.

I have been able to visit our IPCA by Mundare a couple times now and see the work that they're doing to protect the lands there and the different programs that they're doing with the barn swallow monitoring and the bees and everything they're doing out there is absolutely beautiful. And I hope that one day we will be able to do a field trip out there and Jordan can take us and show you all the great things that are happening.

[Secretary Leddy]
Thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you, Madam President. Secretary Leddy?

[Secretary Leddy]
Yes, I just want to say that it's easy to say thank you to me, but truly the work and effort that is happening is in the Environment and Climate Change Department and I just have the honour of getting to brag about all the amazing things they're doing. So I really just want to extend my gratitude and thanks to all of that hard work that's happening because citizens notice it, we are noticing it here, and it's really making a change in a world that can

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sometimes be a little dark. So I just wanted to really make sure that we're giving kudos to the people who are doing a lot of the hard work on the ground.

[Chair]
Very good. Going online, Secretary Collins?

[Secretary Karen Collins]
Yes, good afternoon, everyone.

[President Sandmaier]
Great report, Madam Secretary Leddy, and wonderful work by your team. Thank you, Madam President.

[Secretary Collins]
With that, Jordan, you could quickly email me a full list of all of our messages that we have counted throughout the month. I'm going to be sending a city lantern event this weekend and I would like to pop up. Any questions arise about that?

[Chair]
Jordan, if we can have you reach out directly to Secretary Collins, we'll advance her contact information so that you can get her that IPCA information she's requesting. Would you be able to do that?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Perfect.

[Chair]
Very good, thank you.

[Secretary Collins]
Okay.

[Chair]
We're noting that we're having a lot of distortion on the online participants. I caught most of that because I can speak alien, but we're having a little bit of trouble, so I'm going to leave it to Colin to try and sort that out, and we'll go to Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Thank you so much. Just to echo all of my colleagues, it is amazing to see all of these programs and initiatives coming from this department, and I want to say congratulations and great work. I would like to make the motion that be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that the briefing note regarding ECC update to OMG Citizens' Council is accepted for information as presented.

[Chair]

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Thank you, Secretary Sarah Wolfe. Representative Dunfield, your comment from the last briefing note is accurate for this briefing note. This is not accurately indicated.

It is checked off as information instead of for decision. This is the one that is wrong. Representative Ward, go ahead.

[Representative Ward]
Yeah, thanks, Jordan. With the 59 acres you said that was east of Calgary, what river did you say it was close to again?

[Conservation Manager Jordan York]
If you give me one moment, I will look that up and get back, and I was going to bring up on a map here.

[Representative Ward]
Okay. Thank you.

[Conservation Manager Jordan York]
While we hold up the show here, I can always pass this along to Secretary Leddy, and she can address that after if that's useful.

[Chair]
Yeah, we didn't catch any of that, Jordan. Sorry. You'll have to repeat yourself a little slower if you could.

Sorry. Can you hear me now? We can hear you.

[Conservation Manager Jordan York]
It is. Well, I found it now. So it is along the Bow River.

So it's not on the Bow River, but it is just slightly on the north side of the Bow River, if that helps.

[Chair]
Very good. Does that answer your question, Representative Ward? Good.

Any further discussion, questions, information to the report? Otherwise, I'm going looking for a seconder, I believe, right, Madam Clerk? Secretary Blatz seconds the motion to accept the report for information.

Further discussion? Last call? Seeing none, is there any opposition to the motion?

Seeing none, the motion carries. The report is accepted for information. Thank you, Secretary Leddy.

Okay. We are a little ahead of time, which is good news. The next item on your agenda is Item 9B, Underrepresented Business, which is the Citizens Gathering Artist Callout.

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So I will invite Taylor Masters, the Events Manager, to join us at the table. And present on this item.

[Events Manager Taylor Masters]
Hello, everyone. So the motion you have before you today is purely for information purposes. It be it resolved that the Citizen Council accept this briefing as information on the completed commissioned artwork for the upcoming Citizens Gathering.

So you'll remember a few months ago, we had an artist callout where we were looking for a Métis artist to kind of be commissioned to provide an art piece for the Citizens Gathering that has to do with the theme. Our theme this year is... Please bear with me as I say this.

é Pimohteyahk Miyo Pimohtewin. We walk forward in a good way.

And so to fully capture the essence of that theme, we selected Emily Delorme. And you can see the completed artwork up on the screen as well as in the briefing note. She has created this beautiful art piece that is watercolor on canvas.

And it is... I love it, personally. But it was created by Emily.

And she is a Métis artist who specializes in watercolor. And she's a tattoo artist as well, which is kind of just a fun fact. She is based out of Edmonton, born in Calgary, and her artwork reflects her research on Métis connection.

She draws inspiration from her grandmother, her late grandfather, Alan Belcourt, her grandmother, Muriel Loyer, I think is how I say it, and her late grandmother-in-law, Rose Delorme. So these are kind of... We had a lot of applications, but Emily was by far the strongest one.

And this is kind of what she has created for us. Any questions?

[Chair]
Thank you, guys. I don't know much about art, but that's pretty. Council, questions, commentary, discussion in respect to the report?

Secretary Blatz.

[Secretary Blatz]
I'm ready to move the motion to accept for information as presented, but also this piece of art is awesome. Like, this is super pretty, so great work.

[Chair]
Very good. President Sandmeier.

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[President Sandmaier]
Yeah, I just want to say again that the call-out for our work is so important. We have so many talented artists in our nation, and I know that it's very difficult to choose. This piece is absolutely beautiful, every little bit of it.

And at first glance, I didn't see the flower work up the trunk of the tree. Yeah, every time I look at it, I see something. So absolutely beautiful, and thank you guys so much for all your hard work on this.

Thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you, President. Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
I'm prepared to second it, Mr. Chair.

[Chair]
Good. So we have an active motion on the floor, moved by Secretary Blatz, seconded by Secretary Lisa Wolfe. Secretary Mitchell, comments?

[Secretary Mitchell]
Yeah, this just blew my mind. So Alan Belcourt was also my late grandfather, and that's my cousin, and I didn't realize that's her art.

[Events Manager Taylor Masters]
That's really cool. Just, yeah, lightbulb moment. Wow.

[Chair]
Well, that's awesome. What a nice surprise. Any other discussion to the report?

Debate? Any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.

The briefing is accepted for information as presented. Thank you very much, Taylor. Okay, we are going to adjust the order of our agenda just a little bit, Council.

We are going to advance the key messages up to now, because none of the things that we have to deal with in closed session are likely to rise to public decisions that we would do messaging on. So in order to bring those forward and allow the staff responsible for that work to leave while they're still in their workday, we're going to deal with key messages now. So I, sorry, Representative Paula?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Just wondering if we should do 9C first.

[Chair]

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Sorry, thank you for reminding me. The discussion on agenda item requests, item 9C, I wrote too small to notice that. So we will go to that agenda item before key messages.

The floor is all yours, Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Thank you, and I apologize for what seemed like a ridiculous request for an agenda request to talk about agenda requests at the time of adding an agenda request. The silliness of that did not escape me. However, the conversation is more around the process of agenda item requests.

So currently we have established kind of a precedent that our agenda submissions come out at least 10 days before our meetings, and typically that deadline is announced on the notice of meeting that we receive. And so what, the process that we have right now is that as representatives we can submit to the email that's identified for agenda item requests. And currently there isn't a requirement or a mechanism to actually receive feedback on those requests as to whether or not they're going to be included on an upcoming agenda or a future agenda or any agenda at all.

And for myself, and I have talked to other, some of my other colleagues as well who have brought forward requests, I'm assuming from my conversations with them that I am not the only one who has submitted multiple agenda item requests and never received a response as far as acknowledgement of receipt or a reply as to whether or not they were going to be included at the next meeting as requested or at any future meeting or if they weren't, for what reason they weren't going to be. And so I'm assuming that that is not just myself experiencing that lack of either acknowledgement or response. So what I am doing is wanting to bring forward a motion that any agenda item request that's properly submitted by the deadline that there is a response required on behalf of the chair and the president who select the items for our agenda that would be a response back to that representative that's submitting the request to either let them know if it's going to be, whatever the decision might be, whether it's going to be included on the next agenda item, a future agenda item, or for whatever reason it's not going to make it to the agenda. It creates for a lot of confusion, especially when our agenda packages typically only come out a few days before the meeting to effectively prepare or not prepare to speak to the agenda item that we're putting forward.

And I think that if we're putting that request forward, we should have the ability to prepare effectively and know ahead of time if it's actually going to make it to the agenda and why or why not. Yeah, that's the motion that I'm putting to the floor.

[Chair]
President, do you have thoughts on this or would you like me to speak to it first?

[President Sandmaier]

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Well, I agree. I think that we should be sending something out saying whether it can fit into the agenda or not. It's, you know, part of the communication that is so important.

So that's all I got to say. Thank you, Bobbi. I mean, Representative Paul-Alook.

[Chair]
Thank you. The point is well taken, Representative Paul-Alook. It doesn't need to be a motion.

You just have to say that's what you want me to do and we'll do it. So up to this point, we've reported on the agenda request and the chair's report. If you want responses back and the preliminary status of each of those, happy to do that.

You just got to say so. And yeah, we can do that.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I'd actually like it to be officially on the record that it's a motion so that it needs to be like followed. But also I, you know, for myself, I've submitted 11 items over three separate requests and never once received back. Unfortunately, when we're getting packages a few days ahead and then lately the chair's report, which is the only way that we really know if it's included or not or why it's not included, has been coming out a day or two before our meeting.

For myself, I travel, I have a whole travel day before our meeting. So getting that notice and either having time to prepare to speak to an agenda item or to, you know, address why maybe it wasn't included isn't sufficient time. So thank you for agreeing or I'm going to take that as a support for my motion.

And I would ask that the motion goes to the floor.

[Chair]
Yeah. I'll speak a bit to the, why the chair's report timing has changed. It used to come up with the regular agenda package and this is something we've never talked about.

So what we were seeing is in the discussion of the chair's report, the chair's report being two weeks or a week and a half before council having been drafted. There's a lot that changes in 10 days before we get to that council meeting, right? And it had raised, we were noticing in minutes and discussion and recordings, it's raising a lot of questions among council where I'm then updating for the 10 days from the day I drafted it to the day of the report.

So we made the adjustment or the decision to adjust and make sure that that's coming out with the most accurate information we can so that you guys have it. So yeah, I think this is an easy fix. If you want to be a motion, that's more than acceptable.

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To direct the chair to respond to agenda requests as they come in, happy to do it. And on the chair's report, if you guys want it to be static in time, similar to say the transition reports where it comes up to April 13th and we don't provide additional information to it because that would take considerable amounts of time and then just be repeated the next month in the next report. That's not good use of your deliberative and your legislative time, right?

That's why we kind of avoid that and why we adjusted the timing on the chair's report. So that's kind of the thinking around the current iterations of the chair's report. But I will turn it over to Representative Dunfield.

I presume she's going to second the motion and then likely has thoughts.

[Representative Dunfield]
Yes, I'll second that motion and I don't have anything further to add.

[Chair]
Very good. Representative Paul-Alook, additional information, thoughts?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
No, thank you. I just want to be clear that I'm not, that I personally would prefer to have the chair's report and we can be updated at the time of our meeting if there's any additions to it. But I myself with having a whole entire travel day ahead of time, it makes it incredibly difficult and I'm either staying up late to read it once I get into the city or I try to scramble to read it in the morning prior to the meeting start.

So personally, I would prefer it to come along with the rest of the package. And if there's any updates that we just receive them, at the time that the meeting's happening or the night before, whatever, I can catch up on a few sentences a lot quicker than an entire report.

[Chair]
Understood. Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Hi, thank you. I was just wondering if either the clerk or Representative Paul-Alook could reread the motion in its entirety just so I can make sure it's captured properly.

[Chair]
Madam Clerk, do you have a sense of the motion or would you like them over? Sorry? Okay, I apparently have the wording on one of my screens here.

Be it resolved by the Citizens Council that administration is directed to ensure that any agenda item requests that are properly submitted before the deadline receive a response to that request advising of the decision on the request, whether it's included on the next agenda, a future agenda, or if it's not going to be included on the agenda. That's a really

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wordy motion, but I guess it gets the job done. Is that the motion as intended, Secretary Paul-Alook?

[Representative Dunfield]
Mr. Chair, I just need to raise a question. Is it directing administration or is it a request to the Chair and the President? Because it's the Chair and the President that do the agenda items, so I just wanted to clarify that.

I don't know if it's an administrative direction or if it's a request to the Chair and to the President for a response.

[Chair]
And that's a good flag, Representative Dunfield. I would say the motion should direct the Office of the Chair, which would encompass all of those operations no matter what in perpetuity for the rest of the future. So if we're okay with changing administration to the Office of the Chair, that captures everything for everybody going forward.

Is that okay?

[Representative Dunfield]
I'm good with that too.

[Chair]
Okay, are we good with that really wordy motion?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
It didn't necessarily have to be that laid out, but I'm fine with it.

[Chair]
Do you want us to take it back and clean it up?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
No, I mean, don't reword it.

[Chair]
It's fine.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
It didn't have to have the exact details in there. But it does the trick, so thank you.

[Chair]
Okay, very good.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Definitely doesn't leave anything out.

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[Chair]
Do you have clarity on the motion, Secretary Wolfe? Very good. Okay, sounds like we all have clarity on the motion.

Is there further discussion or debate? Seeing none, is there any opposition to the motion? Motion carries.

We shall undertake to put that action in motion for you coming forward. Okay, that takes us into the final public portion of our agenda, with the exception of the President's closing, which will be key messages. So I will invite those staff to the table to deal with key messages, and Council can tell them what, out of today, is important, and yesterday, that we communicate to your citizens.

[Representative Dunfield]
Mr. Chair, just for clarification, item number 10. Oh, never mind. It's all good.

[Chair]
I love the questions that answer themselves. Those are my favorite questions. All right.

Director Sparrow, the floor is all yours.

[Director Nicole Sparrow]
Thank you, Chair, and hi, everyone. I just wanted to begin by formally introducing you to Adam Still. Adam is in the Communications Department, and maybe I'll ask him to do a quick introduction to his role.

[Acting Senior Manager Adam Still]
Thank you. Yeah, so my name is Adam Still. I'm currently the Acting Senior Manager in the Communications and Citizen Engagement Department.

Yeah, I guess I can just share that I'm a proud MNA citizen, and I've been with the organization going on eight years, this, in July, so. Yeah, so thank you.

[Director Nicole Sparrow]
Thanks, Adam. So I just wanted to thank the representatives who have recently sent in submissions to the Citizen Spotlights. I think we're booking into the end of June, but I know the Comms team is always welcoming submissions, and our citizens really like to see each other highlighted in that way, so if you have any submissions, please send them forward.

In terms of upcoming statements that you can expect, we will be announcing the new Chief Electoral Officer in her new role. That should be up either this afternoon or tomorrow morning, as well as announcing Secretary Blatz has been appointed to cabinet. And if there's anything that you would like to see highlighted, either from this meeting or in your communities, please let us know.

We'd love to hear them.

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[Chair]
Okay, Council. Now is your moment. Tell them what to do.

Secretary Bramfield.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you. I know I've brought it up before regarding the live streaming link. My citizens have been coming to me asking for it to be more accessible.

I know it's noted that you can find it on our YouTube channel, but people have to look it up and click and go find it. There should be a direct link. And I mean, I've seen it where the link is available on the post.

However, for whatever reason, if that's difficult to do, if maybe we can post the link in the comments once it's available or on our stories. Just, yeah, citizens shouldn't have to navigate YouTube. There should be a link available.

So thank you.

[Director Nicole Sparrow]
Yeah, thank you for flagging that again. We'll take that away with the comms department and endeavor to make that more accessible.

[Chair]
Thank you, Secretary Bramfield. We definitely had citizens reach out today asking for the link again. So not a surprise.

Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Thank you. Yeah, that's a great point, Secretary Bradfield. Thank you for that.

Fort Edmonton Park had its seasonal grand opening again this past Saturday, and I just wanted to encourage our citizens to go check out the Indigenous Peoples Experience there and spend some time looking around and learning history. There is free general admission for Indigenous Peoples at Fort Edmonton Park, so it's a really cost-friendly thing that you can do with your family and friends and your children. So I would just encourage our citizens to go and check that out.

Thank you.

[Chair]
Very good. Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]

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Yes, thank you. I just want to make note that the Inspire Awards were held last week, and that a delegation of members from this council went to the Inspires, but also to remember that as Métis people, we have the opportunity to nominate our special Métis citizens for these awards, and I just want to make a note that they can do that throughout the year. The other event that we attended was the Esquao Awards, and that is for women in leadership positions.

Currently, they're not accepting any applications because they have an overwhelmingly big portfolio of women that are in for leadership, but just to make note that women are encouraged to be in positions of leadership and that we support them.

[Chair]
Very good. That's captured. I'm seeing nodding heads.

Good. Secretary Brownfield.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you, and I also just wanted to mention McMurray Métis is having their Métis Fest on June 27th and 28th, and I hope anyone who wants to come can come, and I can submit it as well, so it can be added to the shirt out.

[Chair]
Thank you, Secretary Bramfield. Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]
Yeah, in regards to the gathering, just wondering if and when we will be putting ads in the papers along with the social media and stuff like that. The papers are just as important and posters too, right? So if I happen to be in my district and the edges and stuff like that, I could drop posters off and just have that visibility out there.

[Director Nicole Sparrow]
I don't have the exact answer for you about the advertising papers, but I do believe we will be making posters as usual and that they'll be distributed. So we'll for sure make those available, and I will find out the answer to the paper advertising for you.

[Chair]
Secretary Chodzicki.

[Secretary Joe Chodzicki]
Yeah, I just want to announce that two days ago, our counselors for the district got sworn in after a long battle of almost a month and a half when the captain got sworn in. He swore in the counselors the other day, so we have a captain and a counselor in the Red Deer District, so I'm very happy about that. Also, our district's going to be involved in at least three parades this year.

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We're going to be in Sundre Parade, we'll be in the Blackfalds Penhold Parade, and, of course, the Red Deer Parade. And in the Red Deer Parade, we will have representative down the end. Oh, he's sleeping.

He's bringing his horse and his wagon to the Red Deer Fair. So that's going to happen. Also, at the fairgrounds, we're going to set up a matey display, probably about as big as this room, I guess, where we will have, you know, make it look like real Métis in the old days.

So... And that would be July 15th to the 19th, so if you're in the area, want to stop by and make a nuisance of yourself, come on down. We'll buy you a coffee.

[Director Nicole Sparrow]
Please send photos of that. We'd love to highlight it. I mean, while I have the microphone on, I did get an answer about the papers from Taylor Masters.

Thank you. They will be doing newspaper ads for the gathering. They typically publish the 21-day notice in the papers.

[Chair]
Very good. Okay. Any additional key messages?

Madam President, the floor is all yours.

[President Sandmaier]
I just wanted to add to the... For the Inspire Awards, we also had a delegation go of 12, and Secretary Lavallee is on the call, so she can correct me if I'm wrong. We also had...

Yeah, 12. 12 high school students attend ROAR, which is the youth part of the Inspire Awards. It's a conference for youth, and our Director of Youth Programs and Services, Melissa Tipler, and some of her team took these 12 high school students to that conference, so I think it's something that we could get some information on from Director Tipler to make sure we put in there as well, and then I know you probably already have this, but we also, of course, had Secretary Lavallee attend the FPTI on the... This week in Regina, so that would be good as well.

[Director Nicole Sparrow]
Yes, our wonderful Press Secretary has drafted a post. I believe it's with her for approval. Thank you for flagging that.

I forgot to mention it.

[Chair]
Thank you, Madam President. Secretary Dibb.

[Secretary Barry Dibb]

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Yeah, I would like to say that the ECDEV team attended the EPCOR City of Edmonton event here a while ago plus the Hydrogen VIP event, which was fantastic, and I'd like to let you know that Katie now is part of our team. We're so pleased, and I just can't think of how many more ECDEV events I went to, but Katie, thank you.

[Chair]
Congratulations, Katie. Any other discussion or key messages from Council? Okay, seeing none, it sounds like you have your marching orders.

[Director Nicole Sparrow]
Thank you.

[Chair]
Very good. Okay, Council, the next items of business on our agenda for the day are primarily in closed session with the exception of the President's closing and our closing prayer, so we will now recess Council for our afternoon break. We will come back at 2.50, so you've got just under 20 minutes. We'll come back at 10 to 3 and recommit to Council. Secretary Lacombe, please. Sorry, before we go.

[Secretary Lacombe]
Sorry, I just remembered something, and I don't know if it applies to Nicole or not.

[Chair]
Okay, for Council's awareness, this would be one of those things where we mentioned a third party that'll get redacted from the record. Very good. Okay, we will recess Council.

We will come back at 10 to 3 and get started with the legislative proposals update. Council stands in recess till 2:50.

Back to order. I've got 2:55. The next items that we have to deal with, Council, are all in-camera items. I'm going to go through the list of reasons pursuant to the training that you folks all went through. The reasons for going in-camera on these agenda items are, in order, advice from legal counsel, intergovernmental relations, third-party interests, and personnel matters. So I will look to Council to make a motion to go in-camera for those purposes.

Representative Ward moves, seconded by Secretary Leddy. Any opposition to going in-camera? Motion carried.

[Chair]
We'll give a minute for the recording to start. Okay, council, we have a host of motions coming out of your closed session. Yes, please.

People look like they're at a track meet, they're so ready to run out of here. Representative Paul-Alook, you have a motion with respect to governance training.

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[Secretary Bramfield]
Oh, sorry, I was gonna say I'd like to second.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook, can you read your motion into the record, please? Calling.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Hello. Can I actually ask the clerk to read it? I did give her the wording and it's been so long that I don't remember exactly what it was.

[Chair]
Madam Clerk.

[Acting Clerk Lindsay Henderson]
So the motion reads, be it resolved by the Citizens Council that administration be directed to arrange for governance training for Citizens Council, including but not limited to legislation and the role of a legislative body to be completed prior to the workshop for developing a legislative process.

[Chair]
Okay, there's a motion on the floor. Mover, Secretary or Representative Paul-Alook, seconder and Secretary Bramfield. Discussion?

Debate?

[Secretary Bramfield]
Could I actually, am I a seconder? Can I have a friendly amendment?

[Chair]
You can propose one and we'll see how it goes.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you.

I would like to add independent third party. Independent third party governance training.

[Chair]
Definitely independent third party. Identifying a contractor in an open session would be one of those things we're gonna have to redact because it would show favoritism to an individual contractor.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Okay. Okay.

[Secretary Paul-Alook]
Yes, I accept that amendment.

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[President Sandmaier]
I have a question. Can you read it again, please?

[Acting Clerk Lindsay Henderson]
Be it resolved by the Citizens Council that administration be directed to arrange for independent third party governance training for Citizens Council, including but not limited to legislation and the role of a legislative body to be completed prior to the workshop for developing a legislative process.

[Chair]
President Sandmaier.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
And so I understand the timeline is going to be short. However, it makes much more sense that we are educated on legislation and the legislative process before we have a workshop outlining that and making decisions on it. It doesn't make sense for us to make those decisions and then learn about it after.

[President Sandmaier]
Okay, but just so that you guys know, that means the timeline that Candice outlined today with the legislative process workshop will also get pushed back.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I'm aware that that may have to be amended.

[Chair]
Okay, council seems clear on the motion. Is there further discussion or debate with respect to the motion? Any opposition to the motion?

Seeing none, the motion carries. The next is a motion to accept the update on the consultation protocol agreement for information. Looking for a mover, Secretary Lecomte, seconder, Secretary Blatts.

Discussion, debate? Any opposition to the motion? Motion carries, the update is accepted.

Motion on the Trans-Canada Energy Letter of Agreement. This one will need to be read into the record. I have listed as a mover, Representative Paul-Alook, if you can read your motion.

Therefore be it resolved and be fine. Would you like me to read it for you? I got the wrong one.

No, this is right. Therefore be it resolved in order to ensure that citizens residing in the Grand Prairie-Métis District are able to continue to engage in consultation to protect their rights, claims, and interests, Citizens Council authorizes and approves the President's Senior Executive Officer to enter into an agreement to extend the agreement until June 30th, 2026 without the possibility of further extension or amendment. In the form set out in Appendix

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C and subject to technical amendments, hereafter the amending agreement, Citizens Council reaffirms its previous delegation of the agreement as amended by the amending agreement, including the activity set out in paragraph six to 10 of the agreement to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Consultation Department, President's Senior Executive Officer authorized and directed for and on behalf of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Citizens Council to execute and deliver or file such documents or instruments and do all such other acts and things that are required, or as they may determine to be necessary to give effect to the foregoing resolutions. Representative Paul-Alook, do you move?

I so move. Representative Moore, do you second? Very good, discussion?

Debate? Opposition? Seeing none, the motion carries.

[Representative Dunfield]
Sorry, Mr. Chair, I abstain.

[Chair]
Okay, the abstention of Representative Dunfield is noted and will be recorded in the minutes. Please keep in mind your obligation to re-file that with, I guess, the Ombudsman. Looking now to a motion to approve the Calgary Nose Hill Bylaws.

Secretary Lussier, moving the approval of the bylaws for Calgary Nose Hill. Very good, Secretary Chodzicki, seconding. Very good, any discussion?

Debate? Any opposition? Motion carries, the bylaws are so approved.

Good for them. Okay, we're getting there, I promise. Okay, final motion coming out of the closed session is be it resolved as a special resolution of the Citizens Council that, pursuant to section 12 sub two of the Ombudsman Act, the Ombudsman's appointment is hereby revoked and be it resolved as a special resolution of the Citizens Council that the resolution regarding a confidential human resources matter be adopted as presented.

Looking for a mover, which I had in Secretary Lisa Wolfe, and a seconder, okay, sorry, Secretary Leddy, moving. Secretary Lisa Wolfe, seconding. This is a special resolution.

I will call on each of you to record your vote verbally for me as we go around so that I can capture this for the clerk and we'll have it in the transcript. Representative Dunfield, in favor or opposed?

[Representative Dunfield]
Favor.

[Chair]
Representative Tremblay?

[Representative Joseph Tremblay]
Favor.

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[Chair]
Representative Schnell?

[Representative Schnell]
In favor.

[Chair]
Representative Ward?

[Representative Ward]
In favor.

[Chair]
Representative Dibb?

[Secretary Dibb]
Favor.

[Chair]
Secretary Lacombe?

[Secretary Lacombe]
Thoughtfully.

[Chair]
One more time.

[Secretary Lacombe]
Yes, I am in favor.

[Chair]
Secretary Lisa Wolfe?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Favor.

[Chair]
Secretary Bramfield?

[Secretary Bramfield]
In favor.

[Chair]
Secretary Quintal?

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[Secretary Valerie Quintal]
In favor.

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy?

[Secretary Leddy]
In favor.

[Chair]
Secretary Wolfe?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
In favor.

[Chair]
Secretary Ekeberg?

[Secretary Ekeberg]
In favor.

[Chair]
Secretary Chodzicki?

[Secretary Chodzicki]
In favor.

[Chair]
Secretary Blatz?

[Secretary Blatz]
In favor.

[Chair]
Secretary Lussier?

[Secretary Lussier]
My battery's dead. In favor.

[Chair]
Representative Moore?

[Representative Moore]
In favor.

[Chair]

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Representative Paul-Alook?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
In favor.

[Chair]
Representative Campbell?

[Representative Darryl Campbell]
Not in favor. No, I'm just kidding. In favor.

[Chair]
Secretary Lavallee?

[Secretary Lavallee]
In favor.

[Chair]
Representative Chernow?

[Representative Chernow]
In favor.

[Chair]
Okay, the motion. Oh, sorry. Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
You can hear me, I'm in favor.

[Chair]
Thank you, Secretary Collins. Yeah, now it's clear, perfect.

The resolution is carried unanimously. Thank you, council. President, forward to you for your closing remarks, which there's people who would like them to be brief.

[President Sandmaier]
Thank you, everybody.

[Chair]
Okay, in case no one heard that, she said thank you. Very good, I will call on Elder Doreen Bergum to close us with a blessing.

[Elder Doreen Bergum]
God, our creator, give us courage. Let us be of one mind. Make us righteous, thankful, and proud.

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Help the Métis to work together, especially utilizing our elders as teachers and preparing our youth for the future. Creator, provide us with direction and inspiration as we build a road for the Métis Nation in this country. We must have strong Métis families in order to have a strong Métis Nation in our Canada.

Bless our elders, give them long lives, for we need their wisdom. Bless all the elders who have made their journey to the spirit world. Let their spirit travel gently around us.

Our condolences to Paul Alouk and the Paul family as they say goodbye to their aunt today in Fort Saskatchewan. Our condolences to Pearl Sanders' family and Louis. Rest in peace.

Rest in peace, Pearl, our fish artist, fish scale artist. Keep our children in the right path so they grow up tall and strong. Bless all who are sick in our community.

Bring them comfort, hope, and healing. Heal our world, heal our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and in the midst of turmoil, give us hope and peace. Merci and D'Etoi Nanan.

[Chair]
Thank you, Elder Doreen. Given that the agenda item 11C was withdrawn, I do need a motion to adjourn today. Motion by Secretary Leddy to adjourn.

No vote necessary on that. Council stands adjourned.

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