Citizens' Council Meeting – June 18, 2026

Unofficial Transcript

[Chair]
Council meeting of June the 17th was suspended so we're going to recall the council meeting of June 17th back to order and I'll look to council for a motion to table the in-camera personnel item to the June 18th council meeting so I want to make that motion. Secretary Leddy seconded. Secretary Chodzicki, any opposition to the tabling motion?

Seeing none the matter so tabled.

[Representative Shannon Dunfield]
Sorry sir.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Can you explain that again sorry?

[Chair]
So we suspended the council meeting yesterday we didn't adjourn it so we have to go through the motions of adjourning it today so it's on the record. Okay thank you. Very good.

Okay any opposition to the motion to table the item from yesterday to today? Seeing none the motion carries. Can I have a motion to adjourn the June 17th council meeting?

Secretary Blatz move seconded. Representative Campbell any opposition to the motion to adjourn? Seeing none council meeting of June 17th is so adjourned and we will now call the council meeting of June 18th to order.

I have 931 and I will ask our elder to open our meeting with a blessing.

[Elder Doreen Bergum]
Heavenly Father we come to you today asking for your guidance wisdom and support as we begin this meeting. Help us to engage in meaningful discussion allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community. Fill us with your grace as we make decisions that might affect the Métis community and continue to remind us that all that we do here all that we accomplish is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of you and for all the service of humanity.

We ask these things in your name. Marci and d-twa-nan.

[Chair]

That's beautiful thank you Elder Doreen. The agenda council is before you in draft. Is there a motion to adopt the agenda?

Representative Schnell moves Secretary Leddy seconds discussion debate. Seeing none can I call for opposition to the motion to adopt the agenda? Seeing none the agenda is so adopted as presented.

Madam President the floor is all yours for the President's welcome.

[President Andrea Sandmaier]
Good morning everybody. Good morning to those citizens in the gallery as well as citizens who are watching on livestream. Welcome to our Citizens Council meeting for June 18th.

I want to start off by thanking Elder Doreen Bergum for opening us up in prayer today. It is always so important that we honor our traditions of opening our meetings and events in prayer and you always open us so well with your words and we thank you very much. Thank you.

So it has been a busy few weeks and a busy summer coming. We've been enjoying getting out into community with the kitchen parties. We've had excellent attendance.

We have had some rain that we've had to pivot but all in all it's been a great a great thing to be out in community and talking to citizens and hearing their stories and enjoying music and dance all together. Citizens have been very positive. It's a big undertaking with a small budget but the team is doing a really good job.

We're getting out there speaking like I to knowledge keepers and elders getting prepared to have a documentary ready for hopefully fall on our story on our story here in Alberta and making sure for our own citizens as well as all Albertans and all Canadians that they know who the Métis are here in Alberta. So we have a few more stops to make. We have Grande Prairie on June 26, Peace River on June 27, Fort Vermilion on June 28.

Then we take a little bit of a break and we have Medicine Hat July 22nd, Airdrie July 23rd, Hinton July 25th and our last stop is in White Court on July 26. A couple weeks ago I was honored to be able to give opening remarks on behalf of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference. It was very well attended.

We had lots of great feedback and comments from people all over Canada coming in and talking coming to me and talking to me so it was it was a great to be at that event. I know our Secretary of Women Gender Equity and Inclusivity did a presentation on women in politics leadership yeah which was also well attended. Great job Gabby.

Thank you. There was also our first ever Métis National Council Policy Forum last week and it was hosted here in Edmonton and this policy forums topic was housing. We were very honored to be able to have it here in Edmonton and be able to discuss as a lead as

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leadership and then our technical teams be able to discuss you know our best practices with housing things that you know we still need to work on when it comes to housing and you know the importance of housing when it comes to health to child and family services and all of those things so our technical teams are going to be working on a I believe a policy paper over the next coming weeks but it was great attendance. We had Métis Nation Saskatchewan was there, Métis Nation British Columbia, Northwest Territories Métis, Métis Nation of Ontario and ourselves so it was a was great attendance. This past weekend we had Alberta Métis Fest and I was very happy when I woke up Saturday morning and the sun was shining.

Last year we were we had rain but of course as Métis people we pivot very well and we did that last year. This year we didn't have to do that because we did have great weather. We had great attendance.

Friday night we had the bingo and it was packed and there was lots of great prizes given out and lots of fun was had and we also had our open mic and lots of dancing and then on Saturday of course the opening ceremonies and it was a it was a great day and I believe and Secretary Lavallee can correct me if I'm wrong but about 3,200 in attendance on for the whole weekend. Just for Saturday? Go ahead.

[Secretary Lavallee]
So 3,200 for the Saturday and about 800 for the Friday.

[President Sandmaier]
Yeah so it was it was amazing so great job youth team and all the volunteers I think they all deserve a big round of applause. Coming up in July we have there there is of course back to Batoche days so there will be a few of us going to attend that and that's all that I have for right now. I also want to introduce to council your the new executive assistant for Citizens Council.

So if you want to stand up Valencia this is Valencia Galbraith and she will be helping you. So thank you very much. All right thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you Madam President. Questions to the President's welcome? Seeing none we will keep moving right along that takes us into agenda item number 5a which is the draft Citizens Council meeting minutes of May 20th 2026.

Secretary of Records floor is all yours to present your minutes.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
All right good morning everybody so nice to see everybody's faces today. A couple things so last week on Tuesday you all received an email with a survey to the meeting minutes as well as a redaction report for the redactions made to the May meeting recording. We also sent out a reminder email on Friday last week to remind everybody to get it done so that it

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would be all the redaction or not redactions all of the amendments if there were any could be made before today's meeting.

So it's part of my mandate to ensure that our meetings are done efficiently so this is one of the ways that our team thought that we could potentially make the meeting minute conversations more efficient. I really want to say thank you to everybody who did respond to the meeting minutes survey. There were no amendments that anyone had put forward but for the many people who did not respond I just want to encourage you guys to please do that for this meeting.

It does ensure that we can get one the meeting minutes out faster so that you guys can review them in a timely manner and then we can also make sure that the redactions are done in an appropriate manner so we can get the videos out faster as well for our citizens. One thing on the May 20th meeting minutes just at the very end I noticed that the the sentence that we usually put on the very last page after the tracked motions about what redactions were made that is missing but I believe Colin has it up there so that you guys can see what it would look like. It's exactly the same as the redaction sentence that is on the May 21st minutes which you guys were all sent in advance to see which redactions those were but it does say pursuant to section 11 of the live streaming and recording regulation 2025 redactions were made to the May 21st 2026 Citizens Council audio-visual recording by the chair in consultation with the Secretary of Records and the President. These redactions are hereby documented and reported as identified under schedule A of the regulations specifically section B.

I also just wanted to let people know that further to the two surveys on the meeting minutes that we had for each day we will be adding a survey to the redaction report in the case that citizens representative feels that they would like to dispute any of the redactions made then you guys will have that ability to do so as well. But yeah if there is any further amendments I would like to keep it brief because we did send out the meeting minutes a week ago so everybody could view them and yeah I would encourage everybody to fill out the survey when you get it for this meeting and if anybody's having trouble logging in or figuring out how to do the survey please send me an email and reach out and I will give you a call or we can FaceTime or something and I can help walk you through the process so that we can make sure that all of Citizens Council is taking into account the meeting minutes and we can ensure efficiency for our meetings. That's all for me, thank you.

[Chair]
Okay council amendments discussion debate or is there someone who'd like to move the minutes of May 20th? Secretary of Records moves her minutes is there a seconder for the minutes? Secretary Blatz and Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
I'm just questioning are we just approving the minutes for May 20th at this at this time?

[Chair]

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Correct.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you on top of that though I do have a question regarding the processes laid out by Secretary Wolfe regarding the survey. My question is would that not be a Rules of Procedure process that should have been approved through Council?

[Chair]
Secretary of Records.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
So as we all know we have been the Rules of Procedure has been an ongoing topic for our Council but however just due to the fact that we only have about a year left before we go back into elections and we have been spending a lot of time on the minutes as of late I did want to bring this forward to our Council just to see if we can speed up the process of the meeting minutes right now. I'm sure once we get to that Rules of Procedure conversation we can look at this again and if there is something that Council wishes to change about that we can do so but for right now I would like to carry on with this process so that we can get to the bigger conversations that are important to our citizens. Another thing I just wanted to add if there had been any amendments submitted by any Citizens' Representatives to the minutes I would have been reading them out so that citizens could hear which amendments were being made just for transparency.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank You Secretary Wolfe that was one of my concerns was that that the survey did not allow for transparency to our citizens to ensure that whatever amendments were made to the meeting minutes so I'm glad to hear that's going to happen. I would I would like to ask the other question is how many Citizens' Representatives responded to the survey including because I do recall there was a piece in there around even if you have no redactions that you that you flagged that can you let us know how many Citizens' Representatives responded to the survey?

[Chair]
Secretary of Records.

[Representative Dunfield]
Yes there was five Citizens' Representatives who replied to the survey thank you.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank You Secretary Wolfe I think that's the other thing I do want to flag as a concern is you know this was this was also raised by President Sandmaier at some point that when we when surveys are presented to our Citizens' Representatives we definitely have less than 40% that respond so surveys in my mind knowing that we had only five respond would be a

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concern as that we're not getting the uptake from our Citizens' Representatives to do that so I just wanted to flag that for you because I think it's really important and maybe flagging it for all of our Citizens' Representatives that we do need to respond to those surveys if this is the process that we all agree to and we all support.

[Chair]
President Sandmaier.

[President Sandmaier]
I think you know as far as the efficiency efficiencies of getting through meeting minutes at our at our council meetings I think it's my view we were having this problem yesterday to call in with the echo so this is this is part of making sure that we are doing our job around this table and as Secretary Sarah Wolfe has pointed out there are there are times in our council meeting where it does take quite some time to get through the meeting minutes and we have a lot of discussion and bigger things to discuss and get done for our citizens so this is a way to try and have some efficiency I think it is a great idea I know that there are other governments that do it this way and I think the idea is great and it is on us if we if we're only getting you know five people responding it is on us to take the time to go through those minutes and say these are good that's all if you don't have any concerns about the minutes just let the Secretary of Records know these are good that's all you need to do or no I guess it's a no yes but it is on us to be able to do that so thank you.

[Chair]
President Sandmaier, Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Aura Leddy]
Yeah I just wanted to say that I really enjoyed the process of having the survey and being able to go through the minutes early and really get have some time with them I also I think echoing the president in it's our responsibility and our job to make sure that we're filling out those surveys and if only five of us are responding I think that reflects quite poorly on at this table about us taking it seriously about making sure that our meetings are efficient and that we are we're getting what we need to get done for our nation to keep business moving as we need to so I want to but I do really want to extend a thank you to Secretary Wolfe in trying to help streamline and make our meetings efficient so we can get to the meat of our agenda.

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy, Secretary Wolfe, sorry Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Leddy]
Thank you

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
thank you for that Secretary Leddy and I totally hear you Representative Dunfield that's why earlier when I was speaking about encouraging people to please fill out the surveys and if

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you are having trouble with logging in because I know Microsoft can be troublesome and very difficult it'll make you log in three times and then verify and there's a lot of steps that can be really confusing and difficult for some people and same with like internet access or things like that so if you are having trouble accessing or getting through that survey please give me a call or send me an email and myself or maybe IT I can't speak for them but you know hopefully they'd be able to help the Citizens' Representatives do the surveys so that we can get a higher response rate.

[Chair]
Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Yes good morning everyone yeah I just want to reflect what Aura Leddy said that you know this survey is very important and for those that do have difficulty I went through the process it actually wasn't that difficult you know you kind of go through the Microsoft account and it's going to send you a text to verify very easy you do that for anything that you're ordering online and then it just goes do you have amendments do you not have amendments if you do then you can write them in there so I just want to be encouraging and saying hey you know if I can do it you guys can do it and for those that you know are not tech savvy you can always give us a call and we'll always help you thank you so much and thank you Secretary Wolfe for enacting that.

[Chair]
Secretary Collins. I'd like to call question to the motion Mr. Chair. Is there any further discussion or debate with respect to the minutes seeing none is there any opposition to the minutes being adopted as presented or sorry with the amendment on the screen.

[Representative Dunfield]
Just being clear Mr. Chair this is the meeting minutes for May 20th that we're currently adopting.

[Chair]
Meeting minutes of May 20th 2026 correct. Thank you. Any opposition seeing none the motion carries minutes are so adopted takes us to 5B which is the draft Citizens Council meeting minutes of May 21st 2026.

Secretary of Records the floor is yours.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Good morning again I would like to make the motion to accept the May 21st meeting minutes as presented. Thank you.

[Chair]
Is there a seconder to the motion? Representative Tremblay and Representative Dunfield the floor to you.

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[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you. Thank you Mr. Chair. Secretary Wolfe.

Full transparency for our citizens I did not respond to the survey. I know it was sent out on Friday that was a travel day for Métis Fest and we had Métis Fest on the weekend and then of course other life events happened. So I do have one recommend not a flag for on page 3 at 1120.

There was an action item and the reason why I didn't respond is because I was waiting for the chair's report to see if that action item was in there. There was an action item Mr. Chair that was flagged by myself regarding a potential motion or a proposed motion that legal was going to be looking at in regards to Citizens Council working with the Judicial Tribunal to address some of the concerns that were laid out by the Judicial Tribunal report. So I just wanted to ask if we because that's not in the meeting minutes nor is it in your chair's report and I know that our legal counsel James Henry's was going to be looking into that and bringing it back.

[Chair]
Secretary of Records.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Thank you so I just wanted to clarify it was sent out on Tuesday June 9th and then the reminder email was sent out on Friday June 12th. As for the action item I would probably look to my clerk to see if we could review what that action item was and we can get back to you representative Dunfield.

[Chair]
Are there any other edits to the minutes for now and then we'll stand them down and go back to the transcripts and look for that action item because it was there. It should be recorded so we'll find that. Are there any other minutes that we can cover before we do that?

Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
No that was the only one.

[Chair]
Okay any further adjustments additions and deletions corrections? Seeing none we will stand that motion down the clerk and I will review the record at the break with the Secretary and we will find that action item and ensure it's recorded and bring them back to you. That takes us into agenda items 6a which is sorry 6a and b which is the chair's report.

It was sent out in advance with the packages so I trust everyone's had a chance to get through it. Are there questions comments discussion to the chair's report? Representative Dunfield.

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[Representative Dunfield]
Sorry thank you Mr. Chair really appreciate the report. One of the things I wanted to flag and and request I'm not sure if it's further information but last meeting in this meeting we did have the extra day or extra half day added to our citizens council meetings and I'm just wondering president and and chair if those are things that are if those are additional dates that will be added to our other meetings. The only reason why I'm flagging that of course is because you know we we had the request came forward on the Friday and adjustments had to be made so just wanting to maybe flag that for the next meeting if you could bring forward if we are gonna add that extra half day as as president has done the last two meetings that would be great to find out.

And then the only other that was the additional dates for the the citizens council meetings and then the only other other one I flagged is that there were multiple events from from the chair's report May 5th 2025, June 12th 2025, March 19th 25, March 19th 2025, regarding that you had sent letters on June 10th 2026 for updates to those. Have you received any updates to those particular agenda or or up chairs update reports?

[Chair]
We have received updates but not in advance of the submission deadlines for this agenda so they didn't make it into the report or onto this agenda but you can expect those responses by July. President do you want to speak to the scheduling of additional council time?

[President Sandmaier]
So as far as the scheduling of yesterday of course it was a personnel matter that had to be discussed and urgently so that is why we were able to squeeze that in and shorten our cabinet meeting. Moving forward when time permits we will add additional time but right now I think we have the dates now for fall for the fall so we will we will do that when we can add extra time and if it's necessary.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you president the only one that is missing here is we don't have December so just a flag for that one it's not in your chair's report we have up to November.

[Chair]
We'll get back to you with December there was a glitch in the scheduling we're trying to confirm the dates there was a conflict that we have not yet been able to resolve so we'll get back to you with the December dates. I did want to follow up on your previous question about responses to the notes that went out asking for updates one of them is actually in your package as the appendix to the chair's report it is the June 11th briefing note from FBO with respect to the citizens gathering proposal number 14 so that is one of the ones that came in with enough time to get it into the package so the others as they come in we'll go

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into the packages as well. Any other questions discussion to the chair's report? Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Bobbi Paul-Alook]
Sorry just just a kind of a friendly reminder in the report it's it is correctly noted that on on May 11th I submitted a proposed bill an act to amend the Self-Government Act to facilitate a process of introducing proposed legislation for first reading and consideration by Citizens Council. On May 21st or May 21st meeting motion 2026 05 21-9 was passed and that was a motion to ensure that the chair essentially responded to requests as to whether or not it was going to be included on an agenda or a future agenda. Just a friendly reminder that I have not yet received a response to that request that was submitted May 11th.

[Chair]
Sorry my understanding is that the chair's report responds to that request. If you would like a response individually happy to do that but it is responded to in this report but certainly we can carve that out and give personal responses back to each agenda request. Any other discussion to the chair's report?

Seeing none can I have a motion to accept the chair's report as presented. Secretary Leddy moves. Secretary Lacombe seconds.

Any additional discussion debate? Any opposition? Motion carries the chair's report is so accepted.

That takes us into agenda item 7a. The first item on our list is the proposal number one the Elder and Traditional Knowledge Keeper Protocol OMG guidelines development so I'll invite the Self-Government Department to come forward and speak to that. Here comes Lina.

The floor is all yours.

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
Good morning members of council. So the first item here with citizens proposal number one as you'll see under the background the request was that council consider establishing guidelines for proper Métis protocol to be drafted and used within the Otipemisiwak Métis government's office and all Otipemisiwak Métis government employees including affiliates to undertake training to learn how to use it. Now currently while supporting council on the work to develop Kahsketakihk the Self-Government Department has gathered or produced several resources that may be relevant to supporting this proposal so we are currently in the process of identifying and compiling those for your reference at a later date and then additionally we've also been working on an environmental scan of how other governments both indigenous and non-indigenous and other organizations have designed and implemented similar protocol guidelines. Now moving on to the recommendations you'll see there that given the content of the request administration is recommending that citizens council assign it as a matter to be referred to the Kahsketakihk council once its members are all appointed and onboarded and then for the second piece where it's asking

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that employees and employees of affiliates undertake training we recommend that the council direct this work to the office of the senior executive officer after the protocol guidelines are established and then you'll see there that the motion captures that in two parts so maybe I'll just give everybody a minute to read that over.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield. Thank you

[Representative Dunfield]
Mr. Chair just a question maybe it's a recommendation on the second be it resolved by citizens council that the senior executive officers directed to implement mandatory training I'm wondering if we could amend that to in in consultation with the Kahsketakihk council and the reason why I'm bringing that forward is if we are if we are looking at training our staff on proper protocol it should be in collaboration or consultation with our elders to do that work because I think what makes me a little uncomfortable with this it I don't want to see it as a policy or procedure I want to see it being led by our elders to make it maybe not just not necessarily our Kahsketakihk council but other knowledge holders that can provide that training to our to our to our staff I hope that makes sense.

[Chair]
Administration.

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
So the intention is that the implementation piece would be based on the guidelines that are developed by the Kahsketakihk council so elders and knowledge keepers on that council would have input but just to clarify would you like to include input from other elders and knowledge keepers who may not be appointed to to the council?

[Representative Dunfield]
Sorry that's not what I'm saying I guess what I'm saying is if this training is going to be provided to our staff it needs to be led appropriately by our knowledge holders that have that information and and I'll be clear that I would hate to see that training being provided by you know someone who has not and who does not have that knowledge or that information because I don't want to see this as a like I said as a policy or procedure I want this to be intentional grounded in our Métis culture and our Métis values that's really what I'm saying it's not about who's doing it's not about who should be involved in the consultation process it's about who's actually going to be doing the training that understands our Métis culture and values.

[Chair]
Okay so I'm going to try and capture that language based on what I think I'm hearing if the second be it resolved read be it resolved by the Citizens Council that the senior executive officer in consultation with the Kahsketakihk Council comma is directed to implement mandatory training for all employees of the Otipemisiwak Métis government and its institutions regarding any protocol guidelines adopted in response to citizens proposal

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number one 2025 is that sufficient? I'm seeing a nod we'll take your nod representative Dunfield, Secretary Lavallee.

[Secretary Lavallee]
Yeah I was just wondering doesn't the first one cover that though no okay because I was just reading it and it says like be referred to the Kahsketakihk Council for advice and support so and that because it's like it's not an or it's like an and so I was I was wondering if that had covered it because it says one consulting with Métis knowledge keepers cultural leaders and elders like for establishing the guidelines on the protocol it would be referred to the Kahsketakihk Council for advice and support so I was just wondering like wouldn't that language cover it?

[Chair]
I'll let you take that one so I read this motion procedurally the first as the establishment the second is the implementation so I do think they are probably separate and the clarity might benefit. Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you for the information I really feel like we're getting closer and closer to our goal. My comment is with respect to at the end of the day when the information is brought to the Kahsketakihk Council it's wonderful and it's probably a good educational tool for whoever whichever staff are doing the research with respect to every other government and department and other people in their protocol procedures that that's a good thing so that people are learning that we don't all do it the same. Nonetheless I'm hoping that when that information is collected that it is provided to the council not in a recommended or suggested form because we as Métis we have our own ways and we as Métis are diverse so one elder their protocol might be a little bit different than the other than the other than the other that might not be so with a non-indigenous government or organization they might have gone you know I'm not even gonna go there but they have they have their ways that they understand that they do.

First Nations as well have their own ways so if the research is being done provided to our council however at the end of the day our council our Kahsketakihk Council should and will be the ones to say here is our Métis process and here like I said we're diverse so we might have a few different ways and here are the ways so that by the time the information gets back to and I'm really glad to see that there's a second piece that informs and will be provided to our staff that even our staff and our affiliates and other people that work within our government we'll see the diversity and the beauty of our Métis ways that they're that are available out there for us so with that I say thank you.

[Chair]
Thanks Secretary Collins. Anything further on this agenda? Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]

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Mr. Chair I'm prepared to make do you want me to do I make both motions are they two separate motions or just do an end?

[Chair]
It's a singular motion with an end if you would like to read it out that would be lovely.

[Representative Dunfield]
Okay be it resolved by the Citizens Council that Citizens in Proposal 1 2020 2025 okay to establish guidelines on protocol for the Métis government's use when consulting with Métis knowledge keepers cultural leaders and elders be referred to the Kahsketakihk Council for advice and support once the council is fully operational and be it resolved by the Citizens Council Council that the senior executive officer in consultation with Kahsketakihk is directed to implement mandatory training for all employees of the Otipemisiwak Métis government and its institutions regarding any protocol guidelines adopted in response to Citizens Proposal 1 2025.

[Chair]
Is the motion clear for everyone? Clerk has it. She's nodding yes.

Seconder? Secretary Collins? Any further discussion debate?

Seeing none is there any opposition to the motion? Motion carries. Administration is so directed.

Thank You Lina. That takes us to agenda item 7b which is the Citizens Proposal number 6 and 7 Fish and Wildlife Act and Harvesters Council. I think we're also inviting Craig the manager of harvesting up to the front to join us.

[Policy Analyst Lina Chhom]
Okay I'll kick things off by just giving a quick overview of what these proposals were about. So for the first one there proposal 6 it requested that Citizens Council consider enacting legislation in respect of Métis harvesting and resource management. In particular it refers to the draft Métis Nation of Alberta Fish and Wildlife and Resource Management Act which was commissioned by the previous authorities within the Métis Nation of Alberta governance structure.

And then proposal 7 was referring to the request that Citizens Council consider undertaking work to put a Harvesters Council back into our agreement. So you'll find an analysis of both of these proposals and potential actions on page 4 of your briefing note. Perhaps I'll give everybody some time to just read over it.

I know it's a lengthy one and then as the chair mentioned Craig is here to help answer any questions.

[Chair]

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Council also has the benefit of Legal Counsel being here who helped work on this as well. If you have questions for Legal Counsel we can invite them up. Do you have time to read through this?

[Representative Dunfield]
Well Mr. Chair.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Just a quick question and I may be missing it. But who's the working group? Is that identified in this document?

I'm looking. Which page?

[Chair]
Madam President.

[Representative Dunfield]
It's on page 5.

[President Sandmaier]
Is it page 5? Sorry page 4. A working group compromised of the Secretary of Harvesting and Culture.

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government's Harvesting Manager, the Self-Government Team and Legal Counsel was formed in fall 2025 to facilitate preliminary discussions on citizens proposal number 6.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Thank you.

[Chair]
Secretary Blatz.

[Secretary Gabrielle Blatz]
Thank you. I just have a question of clarification because so we have the 2018 Métis Harvesting in Alberta policy then in 2019 we have the MNA Harvesting policy. Does that replace the 2018 policy or do both exist?

[Chair]
Administration.

[Harvesting Manager Craig Letendre]

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It replaced…the 2019 replaced the 2018. It was we worked on the 2018 and then when the we signed the agreement March 12 2019 the new policy was put in place and accepted by the Alberta government.

[Secretary Blatz]
Okay and the reason why I'm confused is just because for the background at the top part of it says three key documents shape the Otipemisiwak Métis Governments existing Métis harvesting framework. One being Alberta's Métis harvesting policy in 2018 to the MNA Alberta Métis harvesting agreement and three the 2019 MNA harvesting policy and so if one of those are now void how does that shape our existing agreement?

[Harvesting Manager Craig Letendre]
Yeah so the 2019 policy that was written that was written by the MNA the MNA at the time and then it was submitted to Alberta for approval and they made their recommendations and changes and then that one was adopted as the harvesting policy after the agreement was signed.

[Secretary Blatz]
Yeah and I guess the only reason why I'm concerned about it's just because it says existing Métis framework so I'm just I'm when we're looking at all of the motions that are on the table and all of that it's just making sure that we don't have to go back and cancel one of those like it I want to make sure that it was one of those things that doesn't exist anymore just because if it says existing that makes me think that it still exists you know I mean.

[Harvesting Manager Craig Letendre]
Yeah no the so the what is existing is the 2019 harvesters policy like I said that was accepted by the Alberta government after the agreement was signed in 2019.

[Secretary Blatz]
Okay for sure, thank you.

[Chair]
Secretary Blatz. Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
Thank you Mr. Chair. Thank you to the working group for doing this important work our our harvesters are an important piece of our of our citizens and certainly our families and our tables. I'm looking at this like the the various motions the sections of the motions it's almost like a path a work plan path going forward and so and indeed the bottom one to focus on the amendments to the MNA harvesting policy in in my view that's always going to be on the table until we have an agreement that covers our entire province. So we know that that's not going to be rushed we've been working on it for a number of years since 2019 nonetheless that remains a focus all the time in my view.

So Mr. Chair if we are putting a path forward for our working group I would be prepared to move the motion but they all but it'd be set so it's and all of them are and so that gets up it's

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a work it's a work plan going forward for this working group as opposed to or. So the motion would be all four paragraphs of that that resolution and I would be prepared to move that Mr. Chair.

[Chair]
Do you want to read them into the record then Secretary Collins?

[Secretary Collins]
Be it resolved that the Citizens Council supports the continued work of the working group including the development of an education and awareness campaign and the consideration of potential policy amendments and be it further resolved that the Citizens Council directs the working group to present its final recommendations including any proposed educational materials and policy amendments to the Citizens Council for review and consideration upon completion and be it further resolved that the Citizens Council directs the working group to prepare draft terms of reference for a Métis Harvesting Council and present them to Citizens Council for review and consideration and be it and finally be it resolved that the Citizens Council consider directing administration to focus their attention on securing amendments to the 2019 Métis Nation within Alberta harvesting policy.

So moved.

[Chair]
There's more, do we have a seconder to the motion? Secretary Sarah Wolfe, Secretary Leddy the floor is yours.

[Secretary Leddy]
I just wanted to also echo that I see a very clear movement plan moving forward and while it doesn't necessarily exactly go with what was recommended or asked for by citizens I think it does a really good job of addressing where the concerns lie and as we all know at this table harvesting concerns come up all the time and it is a big priority and focus with our work so I just it's so clear to see the amount of effort and thought that has gone into this and I wanted to say thank you for that and I'm excited to support such an amazing plan moving forward to continue pushing harvesting rights as that issue for our citizens.

[Chair]
Representative Ward.

[Representative Ward]
Yes thank you very much for the work that you guys have been doing and just a question as well in this working group do you have any representation from the south and the reason I asked that it might be something you want to consider because we down south we do have when it comes to harvesting and stuff like that it looks a little different than some from up north right and like Secretary Cohen said it I would like the it's a work plan that's going to be moving us forward and to consider some of the unique challenges maybe not just within us is not able to harvest down south but just in harvesting down there in particular if we can

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have possibly a plan that we've already put into place so in case we do ever get harvesting it's already there thank you.

[Chair]
Representative Ward, Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Grant Lacombe]
Yeah thanks Representative Ward. I'd like to know what the differences are from the south to the north.

[Chair]
Representative Ward sounds like he's putting you on the spot.

[Representative Ward]
So when it comes to hunting down south we may not have the species are similar but the populations can be different when it comes to especially in the grassland like we have like the antelope there you guys might not have that up north our population of moose may be very different than your population of moose considering their habitat so things along those lines just something to consider when moving forward right when I talk to some of our harvesters that harvest down south under provincial legislation they realize that things have they it looks different and it might be something to consider looking at some of those harvesters to say what they might have better specifics than I do right asking our harvesters what looks different I don't want to put words in their mouth but it just something to consider us all.

Thank you.

[Chair]
President Sandmaier.

[President Sandmaier]
So I do understand the concerns in in southern Alberta because the government of Alberta didn't leave the south out of our harvesting policy but I can ensure you and I mean it's up to the in the end up to the working group how they how they move forward but I can ensure you that Secretary Lacombe as the harvest as the Secretary for harvesting and culture will do a good job of making sure that he is engaging with all of the citizens across our province when it comes to this the work that they're doing and I believe part of part of what they're doing is that education and awareness campaign and I would imagine engagement with citizens all across Alberta at some point as well.

[Representative Ward]
Representative Ward for follow up. Yeah I wasn't calling into question his ability it was just a consideration as all right not it's not coming from a bad place it's just coming from a place of making sure that my citizens are represented.

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[Chair]
Secretary Lacombe and then I've got Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Lacombe]
Yeah mine will be quick. There has never been a day that I've talked to anybody in this province where the south hasn't come up and when people hunt I understand the differences in community hunting maybe things are different things may be a little different but in the end we should all have the same cultural understanding about how we harvest so when I go down south 95% of my questions are harvesting and I don't mind answering those questions I'm blunt with them I'm straightforward I'm not hiding nothing and I plan on moving on in a good way. Thank you Secretary Lacombe.

Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
Thank you Mr. Chair so I'm just wondering if in you know perhaps they already had discussions within the working group and and going forward and and the motion that's on the floor to provide direction I'm wondering if the discussions are happening and how we are going to address the the privately held lands that we have now with IPCAs and will we have rules around that with around those for harvesting and my questions are all around that because it's it's almost a place where we haven't been before because certainly with our IPCAs we have lands in the south so immediately my questions in my mind are okay if those are our privately owned lands can our hunters go there because those are our lands so all of those kind of questions are are popping into my mind and I'm really hoping that that's one of the things that our our working group are going to be addressing looking at and of course certainly are within you know our legal legal realms that we have to do with respect to the other do our agreement etc but I'm just that that pops into my mind because it's it's important that we continue with our IPCAs program wherever it needs to be in in Alberta and it's also our due diligence and responsibility that as we move forward that our our citizens are aware of the of the rules and the restrictions if that ends up having to be but a specific part around our our IPCAs as opposed to the sections of northern Alberta where some of us may be may have our our cards to hunt so I just put that out there and didn't know if that was part of the discussions thank you mr. chair

[Chair]
chair Secretary Collins would you mind Secretary Collins just asking for an action item for the clerk to invite manager York and the harvesting manager back and we can have a fulsome discussion about IPCA specifically I think it's a bit beyond this scope but I think inviting them to come to council and in July or August would be great and you guys can have that discussion would you mind inviting the clerk to undertake those invitations consider him be invited.

[Secretary Collins]
I will.

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[Chair]
Clerk take that as an action item to invite the environment and climate change department and harvesting back and we'll have that discussion Secretary Bramfield

[Secretary Brooke Bramfield]
thank you my question is regarding the Métis harvesting council is was that already appointed with the territorial representation or was that a previous council the trappers council

[Chair]
Administration.

[Harvesting Manager Craig Letendre]
So the harvesters council was enacted prior to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government it was put in place it never really ever got off the ground you know we had selected representative from each region and try as we might we never ever did we're able to get to get that going we never had any meetings at all so I think and this harvester council goes back to the 2007 General Assembly when it was first brought forward so it's been brought forward a couple times and we've really tried to get it going and it would be you know going forward it would be good to get it going again so I'm in support of that we will have to we did have a terms of reference set out for the harvesters council based on regions from the prior provincial council so we will have to work on that to put some new parameters in place within you know a representative per territory per I'm not sure we want to go districts and I'm not sure that's I'll leave that up to you know the council or the working group to discuss and bring it forward but that might be something that we can definitely work on is getting that harvesters council on

[Chair]
Thanks Manager Lacombe or sorry Manager Letendre. Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]
You can call me all three. Lacombe I've called many people much worse I'm sure that's okay I got a son named Hunter Lacombe so in response to your request Secretary Bramfield so correct me if I'm wrong Craig the last time that was brought to discussion was I think that was just prior to COVID and I remember that because I applied for one of those positions and I think that fell apart just because of the COVID thing had it had a lot to do with it so that's what I recall on that on that whole harvesters group and I think I think using territories would be the way to go on that instead of districts.

[Harvesting Manager Craig Letendre]
yeah you're correct COVID definitely was a big part in that funding in and just the whole COVID thing was what kind of brought that whole down I mean you know that teams meetings and zoom weren't you know that was just kind of coming to light then so I think in today's world it's a it's a whole different a different view on that so I think I think going forward territories is my recommendation and you know I'd really like to see to see it get

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going we really need to work on that terms of reference and and bring that to the know the new slack matey government overview.

[Chair]
Secretary Lavallee

[Secretary Lavallee]
hi sorry I just had a question about the Harvesters Council so it's the harvester I know it says it's going to be an advisory body for like which authorizes Citizens Council establish our desire like we can make advisory bodies but is that harvesters council going to be made up of Citizens' Representatives or citizens I don't think that was really in there and I can't like off the top of my head I can't remember if advisory bodies because I know we've made like the a couple of them so it like would the harvesters council be made up of Citizens' Representatives where how we've done it before we have a citizen rep appointed by each territory to make up the council or is it going to be citizens that would be like maybe application based or nominated or something like that from each territory to be on the council

[Secretary Lacombe]
My recommendation would be citizens on that because you're getting to grassroots right there so that would be our most effective way of doing it that's that would be my preference if you want to discuss it I'd be happy to discuss it with you.

[Chair]
Mr. Letendre.

[Harvesting Manager Craig Letendre]
With the previous harvesters council that's how it was to be laid out is that citizens could apply we did do we had them send in references an application their resume and we what we were looking for is for specific knowledge holders or not necessarily elders but knowledge holders in in the you know that harvesting area so we were when we did select the citizens for that harvesters council we were very particular about who we picked on that on that committee and you know we were specifically looking for harvesters and grassroot like Secretary Lacombe said grassroots knowledge holders in that area.

[Chair]
Secretary Lavallee I think I'm seeing your question you're asking whether this is a section 66 committee or a section 68 advisory body I think we should probably add clarification into the motion what legislative authority council is pushing this forward in is that your intention?

[Secretary Lavallee]

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Yeah just because I'm like if I like I agree it should be citizens based as well just because like Grant was saying it is the grassroots and we have the harvesters on the ground that would know the best so yeah I think like having that clarification that it would be a citizen advisory body rather than advisory body made up of Citizens' Representatives would be would be great.

[Chair]
Okay representative Dunfield go ahead I'm gonna start considering motion or language on how we might. Thank you just

[Representative Dunfield]
some further clarification on that one because I do know that there are so if we're being clear that it's not a representative body of Citizens' Representatives but that doesn't exclude any of potentially exclude any of our district captains because I do know that there are district captains that are very much involved in trapping and harvesting so I just wanted some clarity around that I understand about Citizens' Representatives but are we also I don't think we should exclude our district captains those that fit the criteria as laid out.

[Chair]
Yeah I can speak to that so section 68 advisory body under the Authority of Council isn't doesn't exclude elected officials what it does is open the door to people who are not elected officials whereas section 66 committees are strictly elected representatives of Citizens Council so I think a friendly amendment to the motion under the third paragraph could it be could read as it is now it's be it further resolved that the Citizens Council exercise their authority under section 68 of the Self-Government Act to direct the working group to prepare draft terms of reference for Métis Harvesting Council and present them to the Citizens Council for review and consideration. Secretary Collins's mover would you be okay with that friendly amendment that seems like it's coming from Secretary Lavallee.

[Secretary Collins]
Absolutely Mr. Chair.

[Chair]
Very good the seconder on that Madam Clerk was Secretary Sarah Wolfe would you be okay also with that friendly amendment? A nod will suffice. She thumbs up.

Secretary Collins floor is yours.

[Secretary Collins]
Yes my turn put the light on because my I had was gonna have the same comment as as representative Dunfield so with that Mr. Chair I I'd like to call question because I really think our discussion is starting to go into as if we had a terms of reference sitting in front of us and I maybe we could save those thoughts and those questions for when that indeed hits our table because obviously it's a very exciting topic for our government and we want to see these pieces put in place I'd also like to say thank you to the to the administration because

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it's been a very long time since I've seen that that Resources Act that was drafted in 2010 so that just tells us we've been at this for a long time very good to see it in the document so that people around the table will be able to see where our people's thoughts were back in the day when it would when we were doing that and good to know that the moose are still running around out there since back then that we're moving forward thank you Mr. Chair and with that I'd like to call question.

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Collins I appreciate you'd like to call question I do see the legal counsel has their light on and I'm inclined to always hear legal counsel. Ms. Telford, go ahead.

[Legal Counsel Candice Telford]
Thank you Mr. Chair and I don't want to I don't want to detract from Secretary Collins question but I just want to note in relation to Secretary Collins comment that we that this is about developing the terms of reference for the Harvesting Council which will come back to Citizens Council for review I would suggest this is an exercise of Citizens Council's authority under section 68 now that authority is establishing or dissolving advisory bodies might I suggest an amendment to the resolution to be it resolved that Citizens Council directs the working group to prepare a draft terms of reference for Métis Harvesting Council that would be an advisory body under section 68 and present to Citizens Council for review and consideration.

[Chair]
Madam Clerk have you captured that alternate wording? Ms. Telford you want to go through that one more time please.

[Legal Counsel Candice Telford]
Yes sorry and I'll talk slower sorry about that be it resolved that Citizens Council directs the working group to prepare draft terms of reference for a Métis Harvesting Council that would be an advisory body pursuant to section 68 of the Self-Government Act and present them to Citizens Council for review and consideration.

[Chair]
Secretary Collins how's that friendly amendment sit with you?

[Secretary Collins]
Absolutely and it's wonderful that my resolutions getting Legal Counsel input so with that I accept the amendment.

[Chair]
Secretary Sarah Wolfe thumbs up there as well okay is everyone clear on the motion that is on the floor or should it be read into the record again as a whole? Okay Madam Clerk would you read the motion as you have it recorded into the record please.

[Acting Clerk Lindsay Henderson]

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Be it resolved that the Citizens Council supports the continued work of the working group including the development of an education and awareness campaign and the consideration of potential policy amendments and be it further resolved that the Citizens Council directs the working group to present its final recommendations including any proposed educational materials and policy amendments to the Citizens Council for review and consideration upon completion and be it resolved that Citizens Council directs the working group to prepare draft terms of reference for a Métis Harvesting Council that would be an advisory body pursuant to section 68 of the Self-Government Act and present them to Citizens Council for review and consideration and be it resolved that the Citizens Council consider directing administration to focus their attention on securing amendments to the 2019 MNA harvesting policy.

[Chair]
I only take umbrage with two words in that proposed motion and that's which would be I think which shall stand as an advisory body is more definitive very good okay council the motion is there further discussion debate that has not been heard seeing none is there any opposition to the motion carries administration and the working group are so directed thank you council that takes us into agenda item 7c which is the Citizens Council report which is coming from executive now council this is new in your packages and was not in a virtual package because it was not available at the time so what I propose to do now council given that we're past our 1030 break time is let's recess for 20 minutes we'll come back at 11 o'clock and the long recess is for my benefit I've forgotten my glasses so I'm gonna have to go and get them because I'm too old to see anything is what we're learning so I'm gonna go get my glasses you guys will have time to read through this because we don't have anyone from executive who can present it and then we'll come back reconvene at 11 o'clock and speak to agenda item 7c so we stand in recess till 11 o'clock most of us are back I would like to get us back and started if that's okay just given your agenda today again as a reminder we're on agenda item 7c which is the citizens proposal report administration response the proposed motion recommended from administration is be it resolved by the Citizens Council that the administration response report related to the 2025 citizens gathering proposals be accepted as presented and referred for inclusion in the citizens gathering response to the citizens proposals which is statutorily required are there questions comments to this document or someone prepared to make the motion representative Dunfield

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank You Mr. chair I just had a quick question is this is the report that will be going to the gathering?

[Chair]
This is information that will be included in the report that goes to gathering so this is the administration side of those responses that fall under the SEOs purview.

[Representative Dunfield]

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Okay is there a place where there's also included the proposals that did not go forward that were voted against like where would that go in or that that did not pass or you know that came forward but we still should report on them

[Chair]
Yeah I'll take that back it's not included in this document certainly the proposals that didn't pass will be included in the report with that detail okay for sure thank you Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
Yeah I read through all of them there are a few that are supposed to come to the July agenda and I'm just wondering depending on how those come and the decisions made will that the decisions may then be reflected in what is actually presented to citizens.

[Chair]
I will madam clerk what is the deadline for the drafting and posting of the response to citizens councils? Do you have that at your fingertips? okay we'll find the deadline so ultimately what it is the requirement is not that all citizens proposals be action and responded to by the deadline it's that we show what has been done up to the the date of that deadline so we will include everything we can including the kitchen sink right up until the day that that would go publish the citizens would be the intention and then if there's work to be done we'll try and indicate the work that is coming and that will be ongoing with respect to those proposals does that satisfy very good. Representative Paul-Alook?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Thanks um my package is actually missing the document if we could have maybe somebody from admin print off a copy for me that would be much appreciated thank you.

[Chair]
It looks like someone's bringing you on now so the final date for the publication of the citizens proposal report is July 30th which is the conveniently also the date of your citizens council meeting so you will see the most up-to-date information at the very last moment that we are available to publish it so we'll have everything that that we have available for you then any other questions comments discussion if not representative Schnell has moved the motion is there a seconder Secretary Leddy any further discussion debate see none is there opposition to the motion the motion carries and the information is referred for inclusion as directed that takes us into agenda item 8a which is our Secretary reports I will turn the floor over to Secretary Collins to deliver the report on Métis settlement and First Nation relations and language revitalization.

[Secretary Collins]
Thank you Mr. Chair I will be looking for a motion following my report I will begin reading my report the Métis settlements First Nations relations portfolio update current status the conversation continues with the Buffalo Institute surrounding the Buffalo Treaty our meeting had been set for early February however due to unforeseen circumstances it had to be postponed the main contact person did not return to her position until early June we

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have been in contact to secure a future date which may be set for the fall as the summer months are very busy for the Buffalo Institute as well as for our government president Sandmaier and I will be meeting with the executive of the Métis settlements General Council very shortly we expect that a discussion will be held regarding the memorandum of understanding that was signed between OMG or the paints work Métis government and the Métis settlements General Council and the path going forward I am so very happy to be able to announce that in a public forum the technical group put in place at the last meeting of the full group have had one meeting and are attempting to secure a date for their next meeting I attended the United in treaty conference held in Edmonton on May 4th to the 7th 2006 2026 there were panels and presentations that provided overviews and the importance of understanding and knowing what treaty stand for history and called history culture and traditions were shared for the 400 plus attendees it was largely focused on educating young people and encouraging elders and leaders to continue sharing their knowledge of the historic treaties for others to better understand the ceremonial meeting the ceremonial meeting of the spirit and the true intentions of the treaties our government through the president was invited to attend a traditional feast and gathering hosted by the treaty land sharing network on May 23rd in Alliance Alberta the TLSN is a group of rural landholders and indigenous people who have come together to affirm and implement treaty relationships in the spirit of sharing the land they work to make it safer and easier for indigenous people to access land to practice their way of life in the prairies they are committed to engaging in ongoing learning about our shared histories and responsibilities as treaty people living on these lands they followed up after the feast to thank the Otipemisiwak Métis government for attending and have asked for a meeting where we might discuss how we would how we can work together and build upon this they apparently had a meeting some time ago with the with the Environment and Climate Change Department and are aware of the IPCA's lands purchased by OMG I reached out to Secretary Leddy and ECC folks to inquire about securing a meeting with the treaty land sharing network and to begin a relationship with them I anxiously await a response the draft memorandum of understanding with the Alberta Native Friendship Centers is currently with the Alberta Native Friendship Centers Association I've been invited I've been invited to the 150 year commemoration of the signing of Treaty 6 to be held in Fort Carlton where the treaty was signed the event will be on August 20th to the 23rd 2026 Prince William will be in attendance representing the crown there are ceremonies feasts entertainment and forums planned for the occasion this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is significant and I am honored to be representing our nation at this event language revitalization update the background the Michif language team continues to advance the Otipemisiwak Métis government's commitment to the revitalization preservation and promotion of Métis languages throughout Alberta activities during the reporting period focused on strengthening organizational capacity increasing community access to language programming developing educational resources and building long-term partnerships to support language revitalization efforts the language portfolio could continue continued to experience significant growth during the reporting period the language unit expanded through the addition of a full-time Michif language researcher a full-time language coordinator and a full-time administrative assistant increasing the team's capacity to support communities

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research initiatives events and resource development the language team delivered four major language and cultural events across Alberta including Michif at the Calgary Zoo, Prairie Prowl at the Royal Tyrell Museum, Michif in the valley at the Edmonton Valley Zo,o and Taanishii Michif: Our Stories, Our Languages at Fort Edmonton Park. These events engaged approx approximately 900 participants including an estimated 600 youth through language classes elder immersion sessions storytelling land-based learning activities and family-focused programming in February 2026 Michif language kits were distributed to all district captains and Citizens' Representatives the kits provide practical tools language resources and revitalization frameworks intended to support community-led language programming and local language initiatives the language team also continued development of the Keanu app a community focused Michif transcription platform designed to support a language preservation and documentation efforts work progressed on the Alberta Michif database and mapping initiative including a preliminary speaker mapping and development planning for a province-wide digital platform significant effort was dedicated to strengthening relationships with Métis governments and organizations across Canada through monthly interprovincial meetings involving MNBC MNS MNO and the Métis National Council these meetings support resource sharing collaboration and coordination approaches to language revitalization the team finalized a funding transfer agreement to support few to support future community-led language programming within districts and continued supporting existing language initiatives including northern Michif Cree classes delivered through shining mountains in Red Deer planning is also underway for the Alberta Michif languages conference scheduled for July 2026 which will bring elders speakers educators researchers and community leaders to share knowledge resources and revitalization strategies that's the written report within but I also have a couple of updates that I would just like to to bring forward and leave it with our council to see should we want to proceed in any direction with respect to any of these pieces that I'm bringing forward and that the first one that I'd like to speak to is I don't know if we want to talk about or maybe take a position with respect to possibly supporting the First Nations in their position regarding bill CS 2 which is basically the one parent rule regarding their registration process so there's that piece also yesterday for many of us we've seen and certainly if you watch the news you'll see yesterday the alliance of can't remember if that's the proper name the alliance of the treaty six seven and eight chiefs put out a statement yesterday with respect to Premier Smith and possibly having discussions with the RCMP in regards to treason so I don't know if we want to go anywhere with that or anything or just think about it for a while but I wanted to raise it so that if people aren't aware they could possibly have a look at the statement as well and this one's probably more for Kenny is in the key messages it would be a wonderful if the what depends what Métis government could write a letter of congratulations to Chief Willie Littlechild yesterday they had an event in Calgary that he Canada Post is putting him on a on a stamp and I think it would be appropriate that we send a letter of congratulations and so with that Mr. Chair I conclude my report.

[Chair]
I thank you Secretary Collins did you want also want to move your report and look for a seconder and odd it'd be good or we can let someone else do it Secretary Suzuki do you

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wish to move the report sure I'll move it lovely do you have a question is wrong sounds good let me find a seconder Secretary Lisa Wolfe okay what's your question

[Harvesting Manager Craig Letendre]
well it's not a I guess maybe it's more of a comment that event in Calgary yesterday where they made a stamp for Willie Littlechild they also did one for Bryan Trottier who's a Métis man he was done there yesterday as well so there'll be a stamp with his picture on as well.

[Chair]
Madam President.

[President Sandmaier]
Thank you so much Secretary Collins for your very fulsome report this is this is wonderful and I just want to also say that we did have an elder attend that ceremony yesterday Priscilla Paul was able to go to and attend that on our behalf so she text me late last night and did say that it was a wonderful event I'm not sure if she got any pictures but I will ask her as well but yeah and I was gonna say that to Bryan Trottier also is getting a stamp and I know that it's been some time now probably maybe even a year or maybe longer ago that Métis National Council was engaged had some engagement on who might in the sport world be be eligible for that stamp and so it's nice to see that Bryan Trottier is getting a stamp also so that's great thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you Madam President. Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]
Yeah thanks for that that was a really good report KC, especially the invitation that holds so much weight it's that's a really important thing to receive I think from a First Nation like that and the importance of that meeting so that one really that was that was really important for me anyway in regards to the first is it c11 you said or something like that the one parent rule cs2 can you I think I know what it is but can you just maybe tell me again what it is.

[Chair]
I'm gonna turn the speaking list off and we'll go to Secretary Collins and if you folks can really hit your mics go ahead Secretary Collins

[Secretary Collins]
okay I know that often people just refer to the one parent rule and that's with respect to the handing down of the status I didn't have all of the particular details yesterday so my wonderful friend to my left here pulled it up for me yesterday and if I keep moving the wind around for a few minutes she's gonna pull it up but well while she's doing that I do want to add that and thank you for that comment about the invitation the invitation actually and when I before it when I chatted with Andrea it was it was it was done in the traditional way I was verbally invited and said please come and come and attend and I was given a program but the invitation came from the spokesperson who is Eric Tootoosis, he's the spokesperson

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for treaties 1 to 11 so when you say that's a significant invitation that indeed it indeed it is that Eric it came from Eric Tootoosis and so with that I thank you so much Rebecca so it's the second generation cutoff rule and where's that piece you showed me yesterday that have the three pieces we thought we organized ourselves yesterday here but she's just gonna pull it up because there's three actual components to that to that law that so it's um it's the it's what the Senate committees our amendments include number one ending the second generation cutoff moving to a one parent rule where children of one status parent inherit status second piece was eliminate eliminating unknown paternity rules children of status mothers are no longer presumed non-status if a father is not named on a birth certificate and number three is the status restoration restoring registration rights to descendants of those who were enfranchised lost their status under historic provisions thank you so much to Secretary Lavallee for assisting me that she sits beside me so I watch her she's just awesome on here.

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Collins we'll go down the speaking list and then we'll see if Secretary Lacombe still has a question. Representative Dunfield, go ahead.

[Representative Dunfield]
Oh sorry didn't Secretary Lacombe did you have it okay you're good okay thank you thank you Secretary Collins. KC, I have to say how incredibly proud I am of you of to be able to attend the treaty 650th anniversary what an amazing opportunity I'm a little jealous but that's so amazing also in in terms of the event that happened yesterday I brought it to your attention because I was invited to go but then we got called to this meeting so I couldn't attend the event with Canada Post and Chief Littlechild and Bryan Trottier so thank you for bringing that up but Secretary Chodzicki because you know as a as a as a Métis I remember those conversations that were happening at MNC around Métis icon is probably the word to use so I do have a quick question for you on on the report and I don't know it says in February 2026 Michif language kits were distributed to all district captains and Citizens' Representatives the kids provide practical tools language resources etc do you know were those was that an email or was that like physical kits just asking because I'm trying to recall if anything came to our district.

[Chair]
Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
I am not quite clear I know that emails had gone out because I did see that so I I just can't remember if it was getting caught with them so they could physically or if they were actually sent to the to the districts and I think that might have been part of it I don't see my my back up here today and and I know one's on vacation but I can I can follow up on that

[Chair]
Secretary Blatz thank you

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[Secretary Blatz]
Secretary Collins just thank you so much for all the work that you're doing on this and you can tell how much you love it because you you had a smile on your face the whole time you were presenting and so you can tell how much this means to you so I'm really happy that you take so much pride in all of the work that you're doing and this is such important work to and let me know if you need to buy a new outfit for your because I'll go shopping with you but that is that's so exciting and that that really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and the fact that you get to go really speaks to how great you move in those rooms that you're in because they saw value in you going and so other people are seeing the value that you have in these spaces too and so that's what what's really exciting about you going to this as well and also Dr. Willie Littlechild is from my community and so it's always exciting to see him be honored in so many ways and I agree with you I do think a letter would be appropriate for both people that got the stamps because he he's done so much even in just my community as well and seeing him honored in that way I think is really appropriate and he's um he's a really great person doing a lot of really great work and so thank you very much for for bringing him up as well

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Blatz. Secretary Mitchell?

[Secretary Kaila Mitchell]
My wonderful district captain is watching right now and let me know that we didn't we don't believe we got a kit, a Michif kit, even if it's an email maybe it got lost somewhere so if that could be either recent or or remailed or whatever that would be very helpful thank you

[Chair]
Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
Absolutely I will indeed follow up on it on behalf of all of the districts and ensure if it hasn't been mailed out and I'm kind of thinking because I remember Bernie telling me we got this big package at the office but I'll follow up on it and ensure that that a physical kit with those are out there and Mr. chair with respect to the to the stamps and you know I do truly apologize that I I actually should have included all three of the indigenous people that were put on stamps yesterday so with that I'm going to suggest that I don't feel right in my heart that we would leave one of the three out so I would suggest that we send and acknowledge all three of our indigenous relatives.

[Chair]
So okay any further discussion with respect to the Secretary's report no there is a motion on the floor very good so you know for their discussion is there any opposition to the motion to accept a report see none the report is accepted thank you Secretary Collins that takes us to agenda item 9a which is the 2026 annual citizens gathering rules of procedure with the minor amendments based on learnings from last year just as we've done each year for the last three and that has been out with the package so are there any questions comments to

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the citizens gathering rules of procedure or the amendment they're included Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
I'm very thoroughly enjoyed rereading the rules of procedure for the gathering and seeing the amendments so I'd be very happy to move that.
[Chair]
Thank you, Secretary Leddy. A seconder, Secretary Chodzicki. Discussion? Is there any debate, is there any opposition to the motion? Motion carries the rules as amended are so adopted Thank You council that takes us to agenda item 9b which is the draft citizens council report which is there for your review again this one has gone out in advance so rather than read it into the record I'd like to counsel to see if there's discussion questions commentary this council want a minute to reread it is that kind of what I'm seeing with all the heads down are we good okay we'll give you a minute I'm seeing some people who would like to take a chance to look at it here okay sir anyone who wants to bring a motion to approve the citizens council report with the amendments that requested Secretary Lisa Wolfe so moves or a seconder Secretary Lavallee is there discussion debate is there any opposition to the motion carries the report is approved as amended thank you that takes us into agenda item number 10 a under representative business which is the request for discussion on briefing note legislative proposal regarding comprehensive review of the urban so I can make the government laws and regulations looks like legal counsel's coming forward to speak to this for you so we'll give her a moment goodness tell for the floor is all yours

[Legal Counsel Candice Telford]
Thank You mr. chair and good morning everyone just pulling up my documents and of course I put a candy in my mouth just before the chair called me up okay so um I understand that on March 19th the citizens council passed a resolution directing that the resolution of November 2024 be brought back for discussion the November 2024 resolution expanded the delegated authorities of the then legislative proposal assessment committee to undertake a comprehensive legislative review and engagement plan sorry that's just not going to work and that comprehensive legislative review and engagement plan was set out in briefing note from the president and that a briefing note is attached to the note that you have in your packages the briefing no proposed a comprehensive phased review of all existing government laws and regulations we legal counsel were asked to prepare a memorandum the one that's in your packages to support implementing that March 19th resolution and the discussion of the November 2024 resolution I would note that we have not been involved in implementing the November 2024 resolution to date but we have been involved in some of the legislative and regulatory matters that the Otipemisiwak-Métis government has been looking at in recent years and what we hope to do with our memorandum is to set out a bit of a timeline in terms of where the priorities and directions as we understand them may have overlapped and overtaken one another so from our perspective there are three main resolutions since the November 2024 resolution that have impacted its implementation and those are the three bullets that are on page one of our

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memorandum so in March 2025 Citizens Council resolved to dissolve the legislative proposal assessment committee to strike a legislative review and engagement committee to continue to develop the legislative review and engagement plan and to direct administration to develop a new draft legislative proposal process in August 2025 Citizens Council resolved to direct Aird and Berlis our firm to prepare draft legislation with support from administration in relation to the privacy and protection of personal information of Otipemisiwak Métis government citizens and just to note this was following a proposal that we had brought forward for discussion to look at a new legislative process in November 2025 Citizens Council resolved that a workshop be held with our firm regarding the draft legislative process and then we also note that after the March 17th 2026 resolution in May Citizens Council also resolved that a governance training session be provided to Citizens Council prior to that legislative process workshop taking place. We are also aware of a number of proposed laws and regulations that are in various stages of process and we've set out a list of the ones that we are aware of attached to the memo but I do want to note that these are the ones that we are aware of and it may not be a complete list but the point being that there is a lot of work underway.

Our understanding has been that the privacy legislation is the first priority for legislation and that the purchasing and procurement regulation is the first priority for regulations. We also understand that confirming a process for the development of legislation is an important priority for Citizens Council and certainly tell us if that is incorrect. We note that that process that we're talking about is separate from and doesn't conflict with the process that is set out in the Self-Government Act which deals with taking legislation through the reading stages.

What we're talking about is developing the legislative drafts that come forward through the reading stage, what happens before the Self-Government Act process is in vote. If that remains a key priority for Citizens Council then we suggest that the training session that was referred to in the May 2026 resolution get set up as soon as possible as you have directed that that happened before workshopping the legislative process unless you change that direction. It's not entirely clear to us where the comprehensive review that set out in the November 2024 resolution fits into this picture but we are of course very happy to support that as well.

A key question that we would suggest is whether you want that to be guided by the same legislative development process as go-forward legislation for consistency and other reasons. We think there are good reasons to do that but that's going to be a decision for Citizens Council and the priorities that you want to advance. But again if that is the case we suggest getting to that legislative development process as soon as possible.

And that is a quick overview of the materials that you have in your package on this item.

[Chair]
Thank you. Secretary Blatz, over to you first.

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[Secretary Blatz]
Thank you and thank you for your report. I just have a concern which is that the memo says it's confidential and client privilege but we're displaying it online and we also have it and we're talking about this in an open session and I just want to make sure that that was that was meant to happen.

[Legal Counsel Candice Telford]
Yeah thank you that's a that is a good point and we'll be more attentive to that. I will say there's nothing in this memo that is privileged legal advice so comfortable with it being shared but thank you for the flag.

[Chair]
So to be clear we're essentially saying that privilege is waived with respect to this document then? Sorry? Privilege is waived with respect to this document then?

We're acknowledging?

[Legal Counsel Candice Telford]
We lawyers can't waive privilege but you Citizens Council can.

[Chair]
Very good. Secretary Bramfield.

[Legal Counsel Candice Telford]
Thank you.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Yeah thanks for the information but I think it's missing the actual information from the briefing note. This law review is very important to my community. It was requested December 2023.

This resolution or briefing note was October 2024 and I think it's always been a priority for this council and I don't think when I when I motioned to develop a privacy legislation that it took precedent I think they're both equally important. So I would actually just ask if we can read out the the briefing note from October 2024. It's very important to my community it's been the work hasn't been completed and I think some of my citizens are watching so I'm just wondering if the if this briefing note can be read out so we're on the same page about what the purpose what the initial purpose and intent of the law review was and why it was even brought forward to the table.

[Chair]
Who do you want reading that Secretary Bramfield?

[Secretary Bramfield]
It's President Sandmaier's briefing note so I would I would ask.

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[Chair]
President Sandmaier do you have it? The floor is all yours President.

[President Sandmaier]
I too have a candy in my mouth. Eating is hereby suspended until 12 p.m. Okay so it's the briefing note October 30th. Okay motion and I'm gonna read the whole thing.

Okay be it resolved by Citizens Council based on the legislative proposal submitted by the president that the delegated authorities of the legislative proposal assessment committee are hereby expanded to include developing a comprehensive legislative review and engagement plan as described in the attached proposal and that the legislative proposal assessment committee be directed to amend their terms of reference accordingly. I was the sponsoring representative. Proposal summary conduct a comprehensive phased review of all existing Otipemisiwak Métis government laws and regulations that have been enacted to fall enacted following the ratification of the Constitution being the Elections and Referenda Act, Campaign Finance Regulation, Self-Government Act, Code of Ethics Act, Ombudsman Act, Judicial Branch Act, Financial Management Act, District Councils Act, District Boundaries Act, Citizenship Act.

This review should include opportunities for citizens and community engagement and feedback to inform potential amendment proposals to be considered by Citizens Council and identify any legislative gaps for citizens that might be addressed by new legislative or regulatory instruments. New address need addressed by proposal following the ratification of the Constitution the former Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Alberta with the support of the laws group and administration had limited window of less than nine months to draft significant amount of legislative and regulatory instruments to meet the requirements necessary for the coming into force of the Constitution and to support the Métis Nation of Alberta transition towards the Otipemisiwak Métis government.

While the transition committee, laws group and administration made significant efforts to engage citizens in the development of these instruments, the shorter than preferred timeline available made significant and in-depth engagement in support of the drafting of the laws a challenge. Additionally, the Provincial Council directed administration to take largely a caretaker approach to the development of the laws and regulations and this approach was echoed in the Provincial Council's review and approval of the first laws and regulations. This approach was adopted to ensure that the passage of any of the laws or regulations would not be viewed as politically motivated or intended to influence the forthcoming 2023 general election.

In practice, this meant the first of our legislative instruments were intended to be minimalist, changing only what was necessary to give life to the requirements of the Constitution while preserving any pre-existing practices and requirements that existed under the previous bylaw structure to the greatest extent possible. As a result of both the limited time for engagement and the caretaker approach adopted by Provincial Council, it is likely that the first ten legislative instruments adopted by the Otipemisiwak Métis

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government may not fully include substance, spirit, and intent or a complete embodiment of legislative hopes of our citizens and the fulfillment of their Constitution. Provincial Council identified the results of their efforts would leave some elements of the former governance structure captured by the bylaws which would not appropriately apply to self-governing Indigenous nations in our legislative instruments.

They recognized that it should appropriately be the Citizens Council following a general election in their capacity as representative of their constituents' interests and their authority as legislators who should advance the necessary changes in our laws to fully and finally eschew the corporate society structure as we stand up as the Otipemisiwak Métis government. Solution to Need Presented in Proposal. This proposal would allow the committee with the support of administration to develop a phased review and engagement plan for recommendation to Citizens Council.

The proposed legislative review plan should identify areas slash instruments in a priority sequence and propose citizens engagement mechanisms. Citizen engagement outcomes as well as subject matter input and committee review would all be compiled with the support of administration in a manner that would inform potential amendment proposals which can be considered by the committee for recommendation to Council. Summary reports on citizens engagements could also be shared with Council and publicly to highlight what we heard through the process.

Estimated costs and potential funding sources. Costs are within the parameters of the interim fiscal financing arrangement which funds the self-government department and efforts to develop governing institutions in advance and support of reaching a self-government treaty with Canada.

[Chair]
Thank you President Sandmaier. Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
Yeah and I want to say that having just gone through the memo and everything I very much agree that it's unfortunate that this seems to have been lost in kind of the shuffle of different moving pieces and it's definitely something I see as a priority as we've talked before about finding gaps and addressing the gaps that we are already aware of. I guess my question is did I understand correctly that it's somewhat suggested that we have a legislative process before we start looking at reviewing and implementing or are these two things that could happen at the same like concurrent to each other?

[Chair]
Ms. Telford.

[Legal Counsel Candice Telford]
I think they could happen concurrent to each other subject to available resources. My only suggestion was you know depending on how you want to craft and develop your legislative

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development process it may inform how you go forward on this review process as well. The review process is certainly I assume going to result in proposed amendments and changes and potentially new laws so I think the two pieces are probably pretty deeply intertwined.

[Secretary Leddy]
All right and then my last question is my understanding is we did strike a new committee to handle the creating that plan and then for the and the implementation of that plan. Who is on that committee?

[Chair]
My information from administration is the committee is chaired by President Sandmaier and includes Secretary Lavallee, Representative Chernow, Secretary Sarah Wolfe, Representative Bobbi Paul-Alook, Secretary Brooke Bramfield and Representative Cindy Moore is the list that we have. Very good. Secretary Bramfield.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you President Sandmaier and we have a lot of work to do I guess. No thank you I'm happy that it's come back to the table and that yeah I'm not I know we we've discussed having more governance training and we need to and to develop our legislative process but I mean I think we can get started on this as well but I'm thanks for things that we've had this discussion at the table and I hope we can get to it.

[Chair]
Further discussion with respect to this agenda item? Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you Mr. Chair. Just a flag, President Sandmaier, I can't recall was the former women's representative on the committee as well is that something that we need to establish to add our new women's representative?

[Chair]
Madam President.

[President Sandmaier]
Yeah I think that's a great idea Secretary Dunfield in in committees in the past we I recall anyway making sure that the youth representative and the women's representative are on the committees so we'll make sure we add Is that a motion that we need to do?

[Representative Dunfield]
Ideally yes. I think I think there is a motion that needs to go with that is that something that is appropriate to do right now or is that something that we is there further down Mr. Chair?

[Chair]
I mean there's no motion on the floor now so it can come now and we will record as appropriate correct Madam Clerk? Very good it can come now if you like.

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[Representative Dunfield]
So I would like to make the motion that the provincial women's representative Secretary Blatz be added to this committee.

[Chair]
I can appreciate that she's not in the room to be voluntold today.

[Representative Dunfield]
Oh I didn't even see that she left the room.

[Chair]
Let's surprise her when she comes back. Guess what your new job is? Would you like to wait till she returns?

[Representative Dunfield]
I can wait yeah.

[Chair]
I think that's a good idea. Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
Okay I have one last question. What do we need to do today to ensure that that work can start and moving forward just because looking at timelines with the general election that is just over a year away yeah what can we do to make that happen now to support this work so that way we can complete it ideally.

[President Sandmaier]
I think what I would probably like to do is call a meeting of that committee more than likely virtually with everybody's schedule and then we would have someone from self-government in that meeting and possibly legal but we can talk about that.

[Chair]
Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Thank you this is actually further to representative Dunfield's point. If we could make sure that the committee section of the Citizens Council report also gets updated to reflect the woman's representative being added to those committees.

[Chair]
I'm sure someone who needed to hear that heard that and we'll make sure that happens because I'll remind them. Any other discussion with respect to this agenda item? Okay where would you like to take this from here council?

I know we have the one motion that isn't necessarily related to this agenda item. Do we need a motion to accept for information? Are we satisfied?

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What would you like to do to close the loop on this? Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
Would a motion to provide the supports and required to, oh my brain just froze, to require what the committee needs to start on this work be appropriate? I don't know if that made sense either so.

[Chair]
Yeah let me think about that that that's why self-government exists so you don't have to make a motion to tell us to do our job theoretically because if we don't that's a different issue. There's no specific recommendations in the briefing notes. Secretary Bramfield perhaps you have thoughts on what you'd like to see since you brought this forward.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Yeah thank you just thinking about the other workshops we have you know our legislative process and our governance training. I know initially we it it was the work of the committee to do this. I mean you can still it can still be committee work and then we bring regular updates back to council or we add this to a workshop.

I'm not sure exactly what council would think. I guess I'd just like to hear from council of what they would like to see of how we move forward. Do we do a workshop?

Do we do our governance training first? Do we do the committee and come back with regular updates? I'm opening the floor.

[Chair]
President Sandmaier.

[President Sandmaier]
Secretary Bramfield I like your idea of asking council and I would say that that is the job of this council to work on our laws and legislation. So I think it you know having the committee to just work out a plan but I think that having you know a day or a series of days over months like let's take one law at a time and all of us kind of go through it and get some expert advice as well on those laws. I know that our retired chief electoral chief electoral officer has given me a report on some of the things that he felt needed to be changed and he just gave that to me a few weeks ago and I have not even had a chance to look at it.

So that's something that we could look at is his recommendations because he did have some recommendations for some changes to the Electoral and Referenda Act. So I think we call a meeting and then I think that it's us around this table that talk about it and get the work done together.

[Chair]
The president. Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

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[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Thank you madam. Great idea from both of you and I support that idea that we what President Sandmaier and Secretary Bramfield had recommended is that we'd actually do the meetings and get this stuff done.

[Secretary Collins]
Thank you.

[Chair]
Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
Thank You Mr. Chair and thank you for seeking our input. I'm just thinking and they're all great ideas good suggestions because you know what I'm so anxious this work has to be done. We need to do it.

I would suggest that we look at and I know it was raised earlier today with regard to the ability that we've seen a little bit of flexibility in our last couple of meetings with regards to the afternoon following our cabinet meetings. We know that there are times many times that our cabinet meetings don't take up the whole day. Perhaps we could look at that space that space in time of incorporating some of that work that we have to do as a collective that we look at taking advantage of that afternoon.

If it's not council business that is pressing that has to be dealt with. This work is very very pressing in my mind and that if we can't set aside one or two days somewhere to do full workshop and to do full review of the work or recommendations whatever the plan is on the way going forward but I'm going to suggest with respect to timing that we look at that afternoon following our cabinets. Thank you.

[Chair]
President Sandmaier is nodding. Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Just a question to clarify so the suggestion is that that still that the committee would meet to talk about some of the things that were in this proposal that President Sandmaier just read like developing that phased review and then bringing that to council to discuss or what was the what was kind of the proposal there just

[President Sandmaier]
I think if I I mean Brooke you chime in but I think what we were getting at was like the committee can get together and talk about you know what I guess what the plan would be as far as how we would do the review or what in what order we would do the laws those kinds of things but I I believe that that is the job of this table to review those laws and then work out how you know with the legislative process that we want to do all of that combined and just get to work on on those things like I said I have a package from our retired chief

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electoral officer that I haven't even had a chance to go through but I would say that we have that and his opinions let's look at that one first you know but that's what I'm trying to say.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Okay thanks absolutely I would 100% agree with that I just wanted to make sure that that citizen engagement piece wasn't missed in in that process in our earlier discussions it's been quite a while since we've met we haven't actually the this committee hasn't met since 2024 but part of those original discussions were to have incorporate citizen engagement into those discussions so just wanting to make sure that that piece isn't that piece isn't left out.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you Mr. Chair and yes thank you I'm really glad to see this process started because I think it's also in alignment with the motion that I made on March 19th about a review of the Ombudsman Act specifically you know section 10 so that it complies with the Constitution I think this process is really I'm really excited that we're gonna get started on this process and thank you Secretary Collins for you know the suggestion to you know potentially tag on some of this work to future meetings but in the final thing and maybe Mr. Chair if you're okay to flag it for when Secretary Blatz is in the room Secretary Wolfe, Sarah Wolfe did mention it because that was kind of where I flagged in some of the in some of the in the report of that's gonna go to the gathering there are committees that we would need to appoint her on so maybe when so maybe when she comes back in the room we can have a quick conversation and I can just make a full a full motion on the different committees that we currently don't have the women's rep on that need to be that she needs to be appointed to if that requires a motion does that make sense.

[Chair]
Yeah I'm hearing you I think what we'll do then rather than go to decision on this agenda item once we get through the speaking list we'll stand it down until after lunch when we're confident everyone is back and we'll finish this item and that motion exactly because it's not technically on the agenda that gives us the spot to place it and we'll finish it up then okay. Secretary Mitchell.

[Secretary Mitchell]
Yeah I just wanted to say that I agree with what's been said it is the work of Citizens Council to be reviewing these laws and I think we all need to be able to have some input and losing my train of thought so I'll leave it there.

[Chair]
Thank You Secretary Mitchell okay council are we okay to stand this one down then until after lunch we'll bring it back and finish it up very good we will stand agenda item 10 a down and come back to that after lunch before we go into the final closed sessions that takes us

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to where our lunch break would be I'm inclined to let you guys go and have your lunch given that it is in the restaurant and we'll deal with the final agenda items before we come back but before we do that there is one more order of business and housekeeping item that I need to get through we have a fairly momentous occasion here among our staff and I would be remiss if I didn't ask you all to join me in singing happy birthday to our beloved Katie Suvanto who is celebrating a half-century this weekend so I'll let the best singers in the group kick it off but please sing to her and embarrass her deeply.

[Chair]
I'm told there's a large and brilliant cake whether it's here or not I'm not yet aware but make sure you'll get some and it is here so make sure you get a good look at it get some pictures again embarrass her to no end please there's almost a fire hazard with these candles thank you council we stand in recess until 1 p.m. Elder Doreen, I'll ask if you'll offer a blessing for the meal.

[Elder Doreen Bergum]
May the Lord give us blessings for the food we're about to receive in Jesus name we pray.

[Chair]
back to the items we've stood down the first item we had stood down is agenda item 5b which is the draft citizens council meeting minutes from May 21st 2026 so went through the record we spoke Mr. Henry we've gone through the action item is best summarized as legal counsel and administration to confer with the chair of the Judicial Tribunal and return to Citizens Council with recommendations in respect to Chair Chartrand's judicial tribunal report and that would be on page 4 following the report from the Judicial Tribunal does that meet your request representative

[Representative Dunfield]
Yes it does thank you Mr. chair

[Chair]
very good thank you kindly with that Secretary records are your minutes then moved with that amendment so moved is there a seconder Secretary Lisa Wolfe seconds the minutes as amended any additional discussion debate it's earning opposition motion carries the minutes are adopted with that amendment thank you that takes us into the other item we stood down which is agenda item 10 a which is a discussion on briefing note legislative proposal regarding comprehensive review of the Otipemisiwak government laws and regulations who's your Secretary that he is first up here

[Secretary Leddy]
yeah so I took lunch to reflect on everything folks were saying at the table and really reflecting on that the work of the legislative review is the work of this council and so I I'm also worried about creating extra delays where delays are unnecessary so my thought would be to dissolve the legislative review and engagement committee and then make it a priority

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for this council to work on the legislative review moving forward as a whole council so my motion would be to be resolved by Citizens Council that the legislative review and engagement committee be dissolved and the work entrusted to them become a priority or I don't know how to do the last half the work of the legislative review be a priority of Citizens Council moving forward I'm open to wording changes

[Chair]
madam clerk did you capture all of that okay is there a seconder to that and then we'll go into discussions Secretary Bramfield seconds representative Paul-Alook. Discussion again.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Just a question around kind of what that would look operationally a big part of the work that was that was kind of supposed to be done to that committee was engaging with citizens across the province on the different pieces of legislation and then bringing that feedback to council to just to discuss just wondering I guess with your kind of new vision of disbanding those that group of people who in in your mind would be the ones to be engaging with citizens then essentially kind of in our earlier discussions we had talked about kind of going into different communities across the province in holding sessions to offer citizens that opportunity to have their input heard and then again brought back to council so just wondering what you're proposing.

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
I agree I think citizen engagement is really important through this and I wouldn't want to see that fall to the side that being said I think we as council especially with when I reflect back on like a ski ticket we did some citizen engagement with that as well I think we have some learnings that we had through that process that we could apply to engaging citizens with the legislative review we can make the wording a little stronger to ensure that we include that aspect within the motion if that would help alleviate that but I believe that it shouldn't be a challenge for our self-government team to perhaps support us in engaging our districts and our citizens in that legislative review I don't know if that answered your question though

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I'm not sure if I'm a hundred percent understanding but I'm thinking that you're saying administration would be the ones that would do the engagement then with citizens not elected officials with the support of administration they would be rather doing that independently.

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy.

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[Secretary Leddy]
My thought is that that would be something that as part of our work of that review as hearing that citizen engagement is important that we would be working alongside administration to engage with our citizens how that looks out I think that's part of the work that will have to do and I believe we should probably have a brainstorming discussions on the best ways to engage our citizens and our districts I don't know if that is the discussion we need to have today but like I said I do think that that is an important topic and aspect to this and as for like the support aspect I believe administration would be there to support us in being able to engage our citizens.

[Chair]
Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
I was just about to turn my light off because in the points that you raised and the questions that Bobbi has raised are were kind of what I was addressing and it's probably a good time when we have that discussion that we as citizens reps do our jobs and help indeed with our engagements within our respective districts along with our of course our captains and our support from self-government or an administration thank you.

[Chair]
Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
I'm wondering then if just based on the conversations that's happening whether or not it's a bit premature for us to dissolve the Legislative Review and Engagement Committee because prior to us leaving the room the discussion was President Sandmaier as the chair would call a virtual meeting between the Legislative Review Committee the legal and self-government to develop a process for Citizens Council on this piece so that's I think that's where I'm trying to I understand what you're proposing Secretary Leddy but I think I think that I am concerned about some of the processes that could be missed if it's brought to the bigger table and it may be better for us to stay with the current process that we have with the Legislative Review Committee to bring back once they meet with legal and council I could be I could be totally wrong but I'm just trying to wrap my head around this so I see President Sandmaier has her microphone on and I just wanted to I'm trying to wrap my head around that to be to be honest.

[Chair]
President Sandmaier.

[President Sandmaier]
I believe that what Secretary Leddy is proposing in her motion would work just the same I think that call calling a committee of the Legislative Review Committee is another step whereas if we just did it around this council we could get right to work and we could still

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have everyone around this table and have self-government team and legal to help us help us navigate the process and work out a strategy as far as citizen engagement which laws we're gonna do first all of those things I just I think having the committee is is another step when we're essentially we're going to be doing the work around this table that's the most important thing is for us to get to work and get this review started and completed and as I said earlier today that is the work of this table.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I would be in support of the motion my comment was just to ensure that that the things that we had discussed initially were included in in kind of what that what that looks like as it unfolds so I'm I am speaking in favor of the motion.

[Chair]
Okay is there further discussion on the motion?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Could you just read it out again?

[Chair]
Madam Clerk would you read it as you've got it?

[Acting Clerk Lindsay Henderson]
Be it resolved by the Citizens Council that the Legislative Review and Engagement Committee be dissolved and the work entrusted to them be a priority of Citizens Council moving forward.

[Chair]
Is that clear for everybody?

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you. Instead of the work entrusted to them could we say something like just mentioning the legislative proposal regarding comprehensive review of Otipemisiwak Métis government laws and regulations or something like that pointing to what the work actually is?

[Chair]
Madam Clerk was that clear enough as a possible amendment? We need a little more clarity Secretary Bramfield will allow the discussion to proceed and we'll come back to you. Representative Paul-Alook?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Just a friendly addition to that I'm wondering if we wouldn't want to put some kind of a timeline in there for like rather than just saying making it a priority it's been kind of like

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Secretary Leddy had said kind of somehow lost in the shuffle or on the back burner for a little bit too long with the original the original briefing note was brought forward in fall of 2024 by President Sandmaier and it would be nice to actually set a timeline so that we're getting it getting to it within a by a certain date and that doesn't happen again.

[Chair]
Procedurally the easiest way for council that is to set it as a standing item on every agenda you are then required to speak to it at every agenda at least that way even if nothing's happened that might be an option. Representative Paul-Alook follow-up?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Okay so you would just add it to a council meeting agenda as a standing item?

[Chair]
I would say that could be the motion that follows whatever we land on here if you council makes a motion that it be a standing item and that we have a legislative discussion at every council meeting then we will do so. Perfect thank you. Secretary, sorry President Sandminer.

[President Sandmaier]
I will also look at the July cabinet meeting agenda items to see if we can again shorten it so we have an extra half a day to specifically talk about this. Thank you.

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
Okay I maybe have potential wording and I'm gonna steal it from the briefing note that was written October 30th 2024 for the ending to be so it dissolved the committee and the Citizens Council to conduct a comprehensive phase review of all existing Otipemisiwak Métis government laws and regulations that have been enacted following the ratification of the Constitution. Does that feel clear enough and to the point?

[Chair]
Does that feel like we've captured it? Okay the seconder was Secretary Bramfield. Are you satisfied?

Okay are we confident in the language of the motion council or do we need it read one more time? Seeing no one asking for it is there any further discussion? Debate?

Any opposition to the motion? Motion carries. Committee is so dissolved and the work referred to Citizens Council.

Representative Paul-Alook you have a motion you'd like to make? You have a motion you'd like to bring?

[Representative Paul-Alook]

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Yes. To add it as a standing item please to all future council Citizen Council meeting agendas.

[Chair]
So that the legislative review be a standing agenda item on all Council Citizens Council meetings?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Yes thank you.

[Chair]
Seconded by Secretary Collins. Further discussion? Debate?

Any opposition to the motion? Motion carries. It shall be on every council agenda hereafter.

Okay that takes us into agenda item 11a which is self-government department which is the transition report. I will invite self-government staff. I think it's Sam coming to deliver the report.

Here she comes. The floor is all yours.

[Senior Policy Analyst Sam Channell]
All right good afternoon everybody. So I'm just gonna run through the transition report for you here. This was written June 11th so just bear with me if anything is a little bit out of date as this moves pretty fast in some areas.

I'll just run through basically any changes from the last time we updated you. So we have a number of by-elections scheduled in districts that are already established. So that's the Red Deer District, Rocky View, St. Albert, Lac La Biche, Athabasca Landing, and Wabasca-Desmarais. And then under districts with fully approved bylaws on page 3, the major updates here are for the Grande Prairie District, the Peace River Métis District, and the Fort Vermilion Métis District. And so for Grande Prairie Métis District, Grande Prairie and Valleyview locals have decided to incorporate a new society to serve as the district council rather than transitioning the locals. And the locals will then continue as organizations of the district.

And then the locals were provided an example special resolution on May 11th, 2026 to allow all citizens of the district to vote on whether to adopt the bylaws for the district council and authorize the interim district captain to take the steps necessary to establish the district council. For the Peace River District, it is a similar approach where the three local councils within the district have determined that the Peace River local will transition to become the district council, the Manning local will become an organization, and the Fairview local will transfer its assets to the district council once it's established and then dissolve. And then work remains ongoing with the locals and their legal counsel to determine next steps for this process.

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For the Fort Vermilion District, due to some barriers in reviving the local to be able to hold a special meeting and adopt bylaws, an approach has been suggested to again establish a new society to serve as the district council for this district. And then if revived in the future, the Fort Vermilion local could potentially become an organization of that district council and work remains ongoing again with the local and their legal counsel to determine next steps in that process. And then I think the last major update here is that for the Calgary-Nose Hill District, bylaws have been approved in principle and are on the agenda to be approved for final approval at this meeting.

Let's see, the Conklin Métis District currently has bylaws in review. We had plans for a citizen meeting up in Conklin in May that had to be canceled but is planned to be rescheduled as soon as possible. And then just a couple of other quick updates that we are making plans for a visit up to Fort Chipewyan to continue to pursue transition in that area and discuss with the team up there.

And in Region 3, we went down at the beginning of this month to inventory records and possessions of the Region 3 council with the permission of the region. And I think I will stop there and turn it over to questions. Nicole is also online to answer any questions.

[Chair]
Thank you, Sam. Secretary Mitchell, over to you.

[Secretary Mitchell]
I would just like to request that next council meeting that there is an update with respect to Jasper House District and elections and bylaws on that.

[Senior Policy Analyst Sam Channell]
I know that was really recent, so it probably didn't make it, but yeah, with Jasper House, the vacancies on that council were just past the deadline to hit this batch of bylaws.

[Secretary Mitchell]
I figured so, but that's why I was just saying request for next meeting or as soon as possible. Thank you.

[Chair]
Shall we also invite the Chief Electoral Officer then to speak to those? Very good, we will do so. Representative Dunfield?

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you. Just a reminder actually, and I apologize I did miss it in the meeting minutes, that at the May 21st Citizens Council meeting, I did update on Region 6. Region 6 on May 2nd did vote to change to the Peace River Territory Development Society, and that was unanimously passed by our citizens to move in that direction, and then just a quick update on Grande Prairie-Métis District at the recommendation of Senior Director for Self-Government, Grande Prairie-Métis District did retain legal counsel, and I apologize that I didn't send that information in yet, but that was the same legal counsel that worked with Fort McMurray, so

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we are in the process of developing, we're pretty close, just need a few more signatures and then we'll be good to go. So just wanted to update that really quickly for you guys.

[Chair]
Thank you Representative Dunfield. Secretary Lisa Wolfe?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Yes, good afternoon. Thank you very much for presenting our transition committee. I just want to just talk about the Edmonton Whitemud Métis District 10, and this is kind of just out there for everybody because as we see here when we go to page three or four that the bylaws have been approved for the Métis District 10 since July of 2024, and a transition meeting was held for citizens in the Edmonton area on July 4th of 2025, and our transition team has attempted to locate the president and the board members of Central Edmonton Local without success.

So my question is to our council here is that how long do we want to have a district sitting without having any representation in it? How long is long enough for our transition committee to be trying to contact, trying to contact before we can do anything about acting on this area? Like the people in the South Edmonton do not have representation, and a lot of them are going over to the District 9 for events and things like that, but they want to have their representation and I know right now like I said it's on the onus of the citizens to enact a petition to create their own council, but there's not enough organization for them to even kind of get together to try to do something when you don't know who's in your district.

So it's a very tough position that that they're in, and I think two years is a long time for a district to remain vacant, and I just want to know if this was your district, if this is something, do you have any other ideas going forward, and maybe even our Nicole Shepherd can ask and maybe reply to that as well, but just to keep that in your mind, how long is long enough for a district not to be represented?

Thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Wolfe, big questions there. Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
I'm very much along the same line, I was just going to ask if this is still up to date that there has been no success in contacting the president or the local?

[Chair]
Administration?

[Senior Policy Analyst Sam Channell]
That is my understanding, yes, that there's not been any change in that.

[Secretary Leddy]

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Okay, and then I'm happy to maybe set up a meeting with you folks to maybe discuss options on what we can do, because I also hear from citizens, but organization, I will say it tends, lots of people like to come and talk to me, but pulling a petition together seems to be a step, a barrier for them right now, and I have additional concerns with other districts then taking up space when it comes to environmental monitoring and other things like that, just with them having established district councils, so I think this problem is in fact starting to grow compared to in the past, but yeah, I would love to have a meeting to discuss potential options.

[Chair]
Administration's okay with that? Very good. Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. With respect to the question of how long, I'm not sure it's my place as a citizens rep from a different district to be making decisions about how long or anything like that with respect to another district. We have processes in place for for our reps, for our captains, for our citizens, and I don't think it's my place to say you guys should do this in a month or anything like that, so I respectfully decline to have that input for that question.

My second piece I is, and I'm a little bit concerned, and I don't know if there was any discussions, but we're, it's with respect to the Grande Prairie Métis district and the name they've selected for their district council, with the inclusion of the word territory are in our, what did you say it was called?

[Chair]
Secretary Collins, leave the question there, and Representative Dunfield is next on the speaking list after Secretary Lacombe, and she can answer your question, and it'll be real clear real fast.

[Secretary Collins]
Okay, so you know where my concern is, right? Because our territories are not structures of our government, so just throwing all that in there. Anyway, you know my point.

My question, and perhaps I can do like Secretary Mitchell has asked, that can we get a, can I get an update or we get an update at the next meeting with respect to Region 2? We had our meeting on January 15th. I attended our district council meeting to provide my update just a couple of weeks ago.

They still have, and I know Ethan and Nicole were on the phone, but the questions that they asked were not during the time that they were on the phone, so I'm bringing them forward because I understand after the discussions, a lot, some of that work hasn't happened yet. They're still unable to do some of the, those transitional documents with respect to dissolution and transfer of assets, accounts, all of those things have not yet happened, so they were asking me questions in that regard, and of course I couldn't, I, you know, I don't have, I don't have the answers, but it seems, because they were asking me how long does

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this actually take, and I understand that it's not really a real long process in terms of registering at society, etc., because they're still having to do a bunch of running around to get their business done, and seems to me that takes a long time. They're spending time and energy paying their bills than when they could be doing other work, so if we could get a really good update on it as far as how long, etc., I'd really appreciate that, because they're asking me and I don't know the, all of the questions, all of the answers. Thank you.

[Chair]
We will ensure that administration and legal are requested for a fulsome update on the region to transition for the July meeting.

[Secretary Lacombe]
For you, Secretary Collins, Secretary Lacombe. Yeah, in regards to the Edmonton Whitemud, I'll probably say this in, in my Secretary role, in culture. I don't like seeing people, citizens not represented properly in their districts.

They have a voice, and if they got to go to another district for somebody to hear their voice, there's a problem there. I don't know if they've tried to contact anybody or tell us about issues or anything like that, but again, it bothers me in that cultural role where, where there's no voice being heard in that district. I have a problem with that, so I just wanted to say that.

Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Okay, thank you. There's a couple things, Secretary Collins, just, oh, Secretary Collins, I just wanted to clarify. So, we're still, we are Grande Prairie-Métis District, and we're moving forward in our bylaws.

When I mentioned Peace River Territory Development Society, that's the new name of Region 6, the former Region 6 of the Métis Nation of Alberta. The region has, has moved to the Peace River Territory Development Society, and that Development Society reports directly to the district councils of 13, 14, and 15. So, the district councils of 13, 14, and 15 make up the leadership or the, the, the leadership of that, and will, will, and, and, and what I want to say, and, and I want to say thank you to Representative Paul-Alook, and of course, I see Secretary Dibb on the line.

This is work that we've did with our citizens in our new territory, in our new territory, and, and forgive me, but I think it will be a little bit of bragging rights here. We're doing some really good work on operationalizing Section 15.8 of the Constitution, and, and just for those who want to know what that reads, it says the district councils of each territory shall establish procedures to coordinate their work in conducting consultations in relations to the rights, claims, and interests collectively held by the Métis community of the territory they represent, with the Crown, industry, and other Indigenous groups. Just very proud of the

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work that we have, are continuing from the former Region 6, and moving into the territory, and supporting our citizens as we move forward.

So I, I hope that answered your, your question, Secretary Collins. I do have a, I, I, in, in respect to Edmonton Whitemud, and please forgive me, because what is the role and responsibility of the citizens representative to support her, support our citizens in this regard? I understand that we can't get involved in the political aspects of things, like, we can't be seen to be doing that work, but how can we support, and I think Secretary Collins mentioned it, but I mean, I think part of it too, is how do we, as Citizens' Representatives in this situation, support our citizens without crossing those lines?

And, and that's what I want to know, because, you know, as, as elected officials, as Secretary Lacombe said, I feel that there's a responsibility that we need to take in this area, because our citizens, if the citizens are asking for it, and they're calling for it, what can we do? What do we have the constitutional authority to do as an elected official in that space?

[Chair]
Do you want to speak to that, Mr. Madden?

[Legal Counsel Jason Madden]
So, I, I think the guidance for this lies within the transition plan, and, you know, as you know, the transition plan is, you know, two plus years, you know, and going on, so amendments could be made, you know, as you know, the, you know, one to one can convert, you know, two to one can amalgamate, when there, where there wasn't one, you know, a captain can be appointed, etc., etc., so we've raised this with Citizens Council in the past. I think that if, if locals are not being forthcoming and being responsive, or to be quite frank, don't, may not even exist, you know, anymore, that could be something that could be modified to, you know, to deal with that, as opposed to making them go through the hurdle of, you know, signing a petition, in particular, when, you know, they may not know who, you know, all the people living there would be, so we can prepare, you know, a note on that, you know, in the future, on kind of how that could be modified to allow for that, because I think, to my understanding, this is the only one, you know, really left, where we're still chasing a, like, where there's, there doesn't seem to be a pathway, and so I think, look at, everyone has, you know, been respectful and honored and followed the transition plan, but plans need to be adapted when, you know, new realities come, and I, I think, you know, I've been here before, where I've raised, look at, it's, plans can be, it's not constitutional in nature, it's a plan, right, it was developed by the transition team, it has worked well in, you know, a multitude of the districts, but here, I think, it just needs some modification in order to, in order to get a captain, start that process, and in particular, I think that should be done soon, so they at least get into the next batch of, you know, for the election, so there is nothing restraining you, and if direction is given to us to do that, we will come to the next meeting with, you know, a resolution on how you would move that forward, and, and I would just have to look at, are there any other, are there any other issues that we have to modify or be careful of, but as I said, I think we're at 80, close to 80 percent now, this is the

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last remaining ones, and every effort has been made to reach out to that local, you know, leadership for over, I think, a year and a half.

[Chair]
Council, being cognizant of time, would someone be willing to make a motion to direct a discussion of the Edmonton Whitemud Métis district transition to the July meeting of Citizens Council? Secretary Lisa Wolfe is willing to make that motion. Secretary Chodzicki is willing to second it.

Is there anyone who would oppose that motion, and wants to discuss it further, or is it enough to say that, let's get to work on this, and we'll bring back all the information, including the experiences of other districts in that situation? Representative Paul-Alook, do you want to speak further to it, or?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
No, I just wanted to add to the comment that Shannon had made about the Peace Territory, just kind of for a little bit of further explanation.

[Chair]
Let's finish up this vote, and then we'll come back to you then. Sure. Okay, any opposition to the motion to add Edmonton Whitemud Métis district transition to the July meeting of Citizens Council?

Seeing none, the motion carries. It is so added to that agenda. Representative Paul-Alook, go ahead with your comment.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Just to kind of further explain a little bit, the previous Region 6 owned several assets, including a company that continues to generate revenue, and so in the beginning of May, we actually met with the citizens of the previous region, and received unanimous direction from them that we wanted to continue to collectively own that company and hold those assets to continue to generate revenue for the benefit of the people in the now district Grande Prairie, Peace River, and Fort Vermilion districts collectively. So by changing the region to the Peace River Territory Development Society, we've now operationalized that clause in the Constitution, but also created a body that owns our company and that is already working to kind of further our interests as far as consultation, but also economic development, and so far it's proving to be quite successful.

We've already done some preliminary work with consultation and been successful in some grants that we've jointly applied for.

[Chair]
Thank you, Representative. Any further questions or discussion to the transition update? Otherwise, I'll look for a motion to approve for information, or accept for information.

Secretary Leddy? Seconder? Secretary Blatz?

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Any further discussion? Debate? Seeing none, is there any opposition to the motion?

Motion carries. The report is so, or the update is so accepted. Thank you.

I want to take us back one step, sorry for this Council, to the discussion on legislative proposals. Secretary Dunfield, I believe, or sorry, Representative Dunfield, I believe you wanted to bring a motion with respect to committees of Council. I'll give you the opportunity to do that now if you wish.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. I might need the the Clerk of the Council's support in this. Just remembering off the top of my head that the Provincial Secretary, or sorry, the Provincial Women's Representative and the Provincial Youth Representative, be added to any committees of Citizens Council.

[Chair]
Standing committees, but yes.

[Representative Dunfield]
Or standing committees of Citizens Council.

[Chair]
Very good. Council, is that clear enough? Is there a seconder for that?

Representative Ward, any discussion? Debate? Is there any opposition to the motion?

Motion carries. The women and youth now have work to do. Sorry.

Good. That takes us into Agenda Item 11B, which is in your package and was included previously. Rather than have me read it out, I'll go through the proposed recommended motion, which would be, be it resolved by the Citizens Council of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government that enforcement of the requirement under Section 44, Sub 2 of the District Council's Act, that the District Council submit their audited financial statements within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year, shall be delayed until August 31st, 2026 to allow all districts sufficient time to achieve compliance with the District Council's Act and the compliance checklist associated with their funding agreements with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

So the background and justification was in the note. I can answer questions if you have them, but I think it's pretty straightforward. Ultimately there's districts who are struggling to meet their requirements and need a little more time.

The Auditor General is supportive of their request and would like to make sure that we can flow funding. It will require some minor edits to the funding agreements, but we can get those done in short order and get that going. Secretary Mitchell, thoughts?

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[Secretary Mitchell]
I don't disagree with the motion, I just have a quick question. So in the background third paragraph it says support District Councils and their ongoing work, I have to read this out so people can hear it, and ensure continuity of service provision, 50% of the contributions amount contribution amounts to which a district is entitled for the 2026-27 fiscal year will be advanced upon receipt of a signed funding agreement notwithstanding any outstanding compliance requirements under their funding agreement. So have districts submitted their funding agreements?

I believe that Jasper House has. We haven't received any funding yet and I just had a question about that.

[Chair]
Yeah, so where they have submitted a funding agreement, if they haven't met the requirements we would essentially send them back with a minor amendment that shows the 50% disbursement, so that we can get funding out the door. What we end up in if we advance 100% of the funding, you end up two years away and potentially a district could have never complied with any of the requirements of the act and they've been funded for two full years and that's where the Auditor General's a little uncomfortable. So he's trying to find a way to make sure they're supported and have the funding and we can advance funding very quickly.

I'm glad we have direction from council, you just need to let us know how you want us to move this along.

Representative Paul-Alook

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Oh, I was just gonna speak in favor of the motion.

[Chair]
Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Leddy]
I'm also in favor. I think I have one kind of question. I don't really want to see, I don't know, I don't really want to see this have to be a yearly thing that comes up. What can be done or what is being done to support districts in meeting these requirements so that we don't have to continually give extensions to meet to the end of August year after year?

[Chair]
The Auditor General is going to be coming back to council with recommendations for amendment to the District Council's Act. He's of the view that the 90-day limit that's legislatively imposed is actually statutorily impossible to meet. So by the time this comes around next year he will have given you options for amendments to consider.

Representative Dunfield.

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[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you. Thank you, Secretary Leddy. That was going to be my request that we actually look at the legislation.

I would like to make a friendly amendment to that motion. I would actually like, I know this is a recommendation from the Auditor General, but I'm looking at my background in you know, leading other organizations. I think we should actually move it to September 30th, 2026 and to give that six-month leeway for district councils to be able to provide their audit but also within that time to do the work that they need to do.

Just when I look at the other organizations that I've been involved with, six months is the standard time. So that's, I'm asking for, did we make the motion yet? So would you be uncomfortable if, would you be uncomfortable if I change that date to September 30th, 2026?

[Chair]
Well, I don't need to be comfortable. It can now be your motion and it can say whatever you would like, Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Dunfield]
Okay, so I would just like to say be it resolved by the Citizens Council of the Otipemisiwak Métis government that enforcement of the requirement under section 44-2 of the District Councils Act that district councils submit their audited financial statements within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year shall be delayed until September 30th, 2026 to allow all district councils sufficient time to achieve compliance with the District Councils Act and the compliance checklist associated with their funding agreements with the Otipemisiwak Métis government. Do we also need a motion before we ask for a secondary?

Do we also need a motion to change that legislation or we'll wait until the Auditor General brings that forward?

[Chair]
Yeah, that's within his authority to come and bring recommendations to you and he's indicated they're coming so you'll hear from him for sure. Okay, so there's a mover with the only adjustment to the text being September 30th, 2026. Is there a seconder to that?

Secretary Sarah Wolfe and the floor is also now your Secretary Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Thank you. I actually just wanted to thank Secretary Leddy for pointing that out because that was also on my mind. It is very important that we do support our district councils especially while we're going through this time of building our government and I think the six-month timeline is a great one.

So yeah, I'll second that as I said and thank you so much for bringing this forward.

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[Chair]
If council would like, I can advise what the original thing behind the 90-day timeline was. It actually came directly from citizens and the reason for it was then the information would be there in advance of an annual citizens gathering so that this council would have all that information if there was a problem it could go to gathering, if there was things that were happening while it could go to gathering. The Auditor General said notwithstanding that's just not feasible in most circumstances.

Secretary Bramfield.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you. When the Auditor General comes or maybe this isn't for him but could administration also provide what is being asked of districts like what the compliance checklist is or what policies are our districts being asked to?

[Chair]
We can send you a digital copy of the standard funding agreement so you can see it. We'll have that done today. Thank you.

Representative Ward.

[Representative Ward]
Am I there now? Okay I'm gonna have to agree with Representative Dunfield and to say coming from District Council and being the treasurer as well as that's a volunteer position you do not have 90 days is nowhere near long enough to be able to do that job effectively.

I'm gonna say even being a parent and September is also very busy so you have summer and then you have being a parent in September. Just something to also consider that those time frames as long as I know it says six months those are still very short time frames coming from District Council and making sure that we are in compliance with everything that needs to be done so.

[Chair]
Do you want to speak to the levels of support and standardization that the Auditor General's also been applying across the districts? I know he had a chance to brief you on that last week. We don't have the notes from that so he'll tell you about that when we bring them in.

All district councils will now have access to that support so it's not just falling on the laps and desks of volunteers as well so that they have standardized accounting processes and things. We want to make sure that everyone has the same tools that they can can go moving forward and incidentally if they so choose and incidentally is actually Rockyview was the reason and it's the model being used now across all the others so good job. Okay there's a motion on the floor it doesn't look like there's any more discussion.

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Is there further debate on the motion as read? Seeing none is there any opposition? Motion carries.

Enforcement shall be delayed and set out and that takes us into one more public agenda item for this series before we go into a closed session which is correspondence from the Judicial Tribunal. Chair Chartrand couldn't join us today so it does stand as correspondence if there's questions we can refer them back otherwise it would just be a motion to accept the correspondence for information as presented. Secretary Levy.

[Secretary Leddy]
I would like to move to accept it for information as presented and to also thank Arlan Delisle for serving in that role for as long as he did and yeah.

[Chair]
Thank you Secretary Leddy. Is there a seconder to the motion? Secretary Chodzicki.

Discussion? Debate? Any opposition?

Motion carries. Correspondence is accepted and we will communicate the congratulations of council and thanks to former member Delisle. That takes us to the beginning of the first element of our closed session which will be a closed session to deal with Approval of District Council Bylaws which is a legal matter as well as Nominations Committee matters which will be presented by HR and Self-Government but before we do that let's take a 10-minute recess and we come back at 5 after 2.

I'm inclined to get us started just to try and get you to the rest of your agenda items. Like I say the next items on the agenda are closed session items. One being Approval of District Council Bylaws which is a matter for legal, the other being Nominations Committee items, one being HR Self-Government but both dealing with personnel.

So I'll look for a motion from council to go into camera. Secretary Leddy moves, Secretary Lisa Wolfe seconds. Is there any opposition to going in camera?

Seeing none we are in closed session.

[Chair]
Here to turn the recordings back on. Okay, thumbs up. We're back in public session.

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So three motions, it looks like, coming out of the closed session. First is, and I will read it into the record for you, Secretary Wolfe, is therefore be it resolved that the final approval of bylaws, the District Council bylaws for the Calgary-Nose Hill Métis District, are approved in accordance with Section 10 of the District Council's Act, to that the President and Senior Executive Officer of the Otipemisiwak Métis government are authorized and empowered to take all such further action and to execute and deliver all such further agreements, certificates, instruments, and documents in the name and on behalf of the Otipemisiwak Métis government and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association to carry out the transactions contemplated by the intent and purposes of the foregoing resolutions. Moved by Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

Seconded by Secretary Lussier. Okay. Confirmed.

Discussion? Debate? Is there any opposition to the motion?

Motion carries. Bylaws are so approved. Congratulations, Calvary-Nose Hill.

Madam Clerk, would you read this second motion into the record, please?

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Be it resolved by the Citizens Council that the recommendations from the Nominations Committee be appointed to the roles of the Judicial Tribunal members for the Lesser Slave Lake and the Lower Athabasca River Territories for the Otipemisiwak Métis government, each for a four-year term, commencing on the date the appointed candidates deliver a written acceptance of their appointment to the Chair of the Otipemisiwak Métis government.

[Chair]
Thank you, Madam Clerk. Secretary Collins still willing to move? Confirmed.

Secretary Blatz seconding. Confirmed. Any discussion?

Debate? Any opposition to the motion? Motion carries.

Recommendation is so adopted, and those appointments are made. The third is a motion... I messed up my paperwork.

Give me a sec here. Okay, I'll read the motion. Be it resolved by the Citizens Council that the confidential briefing note with respect to the operation of the Office of the Ombudsman is accepted for information, and that Citizens Council confirms that the acting Ombudsman shall continue to fulfill the role of the Ombudsman in accordance with the Ombudsman Act in a caretaker capacity until such time as a new Ombudsman is appointed by the Citizens Council, and that such confirmation shall be deemed to fulfill the obligations of Citizens Council as set out in Section 13 of the Act. Mover and Secretary Leddy?

Confirmed. Seconder and Representative Schnell? Confirmed.

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Any discussion? Debate? Any opposition to the motion?

Motion carries and is adopted. Okay, Council, that takes us into our key messages section. We will invite the comms team and your Ardent Press Secretary up to the front.

You guys have about 10 minutes to give him some good and clear advice on what you want him talking about. Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Yes, good afternoon, everybody. I just want to let you know and re-invite you all on behalf of the Education, Training, and Research Department. I'd like to extend the invitation for you to join us this evening at the Otipemisiwak Métis Alumni Association's Mixer at the Art Gallery of Alberta.

If you didn't register, it's okay. They already accommodated for us to come. It does provide some food and the reason why I'm bringing this because some people had some questions, but it's not a formal dinner.

It's kind of like mixer food. It did say originally that it's formal wear, but that's not necessarily for us. It was mostly related to the students to make sure they don't show up in sweatpants and t-shirts.

So whatever we have here to wear is great. This event provides a wonderful opportunity to meet former funded students and hear about their educational and career journeys and connect with the Métis alumni from across Alberta. Again, there's no formal supper.

There will be appetizers served throughout the evening. Parking is available at the Edmonton City Hall and Edmonton Public Library and Rupertsland Institute can offset parking costs if receipts are submitted. And again, it's for tonight.

It starts at 630 to 930 and it is downtown at the Art Gallery of Alberta. And if you need more information, I did have it re-sent out again this afternoon. So that is from Rupertsland Institute.

Thank you very much.

[Chair]
Thank you, Secretary Wolfe. Any further key messages that you would like captured by the Secretary? Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
I'm not sure if Kenny was in the room this morning when we had a discussion, so you...

[Press Secretary Kenny Trenton]
If you're talking about the three letters, yeah, I wrote that down.

[Secretary Collins]

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For the stamps?

[Press Secretary Kenny Trenton]
Mm-hmm.

[Secretary Collins]
I think additionally we could put that in the Voyageur, in the newsletter. Thank you.

[Chair]
Anything else? Thank you. Mr. Madden.

[Legal Counsel Jason Madden]
I'm going to throw this out. November 20th, 1961. You're coming up on 65 years since the Métis Nation Association of Alberta was incorporated by Annie Collins, Adrian Hope, a whole bunch of other people on it.

And it would be really neat to see who the descendants of those people are and whether they are citizens today. Also in the association bylaws, we're doing something of our work and engagement with MSGC, and the issue around when the incorporation was and the settlement. People from the settlements were on that.

People from the South were on that. I think it's an important history that needs to be known. When you read the bylaws, they're quite something.

They're really strong on assertions of rights, but we should mark these things and mark those ancestors. Daniels, Collins, Joseph, Deschamps, Beauregard, I'm probably mispronouncing that, Hope. And I'm just fascinated to see who those descendants are or if any of them are still alive today, but they're the ones that incorporated the Métis Association of Alberta on November 20th, 1961.

[Chair]
Kenny, I'll work with you getting it together. President Sandmaier, go ahead.

[President Sandmaier]
I believe communications has a calendar of historical events that they have been working on, so let's make sure that one does get added and and we'll work towards having doing something special on that day, and it might even fall within Métis week this year. Yeah.

[Chair]
Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
Thanks for raising that, Jason. That's absolutely an exciting piece that we should celebrate and Madam Chair, maybe that could be one of our points when we meet that maybe we

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could co-host a gathering between the MSGC and ourselves during that time. So when we meet with them, that would be a nice positive to come out with.

By the way, I'm a descendant.

[Chair]
Secretary Lacombe.

[Secretary Lacombe]
Which family, Karen? This is more information for the for the table, I guess.

District 21 now has a culture camp out at Martin Lakes that they own, and I do believe the youth, they're having their youth camp this next weekend there, and they will be curving up a buffalo. They'll be teaching them how to scrape the hide, all that kind of stuff, and I do believe that the previous owner was Northern Lakes College. I used to run that camp for five years, a beautiful setting.

It's right above one of the Martin Lakes, and I do believe that they may have one of the Northern Lakes College people coming out to hand over the keys for that place. So we do have a nice place for youth cultural camps and stuff like that within our nation. So I just wanted to mention that.

President Sandmaier

[President Sandmaier]
I'm just looking. Okay, there, I found it. So just further to Secretary Lacombe on the on the purchase of their culture camp, they will be, they do have their youth camp, but they will also be doing an opening ceremony on June 29th.

So it would be really good, Kenny, if you could get in contact with Captain Jani and get the details so we can feature that. Thank you.

[Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Yeah, I was just gonna offer some additional information there. The camp is actually running from the 29th to the 4th. It's not this coming weekend.

[Chair]
Okay, good. Any other messages you want to share? Push forward.

Are we good to let folks take their leave? Okay, looks like you have your marching orders, Mr. Trenton. Council, that concludes the vast majority of our public business for the day.

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Before we just go into a break, I think it's appropriate at this time to ask our Elder Doreen to offer a blessing to close our day. So that she can also make her way home. So Council, I'll ask you to indulge before we go to break, and we will have our closing.

[Elder Doreen Bergum]
Well, thank you, and thank you for inviting me. It's an eye-opener to come here. God, our Creator, give us courage.

Let us be of one mind. Make us righteous, thankful, and proud. 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. Keep our children of the right path, so they grow up tall and strong. Bless all who are sick in our community and families.

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 peace and hope. Marsi and d-twa-nan.

Kewapa Metenmina. I will see you again.

[Chair]
Okay, Council, before we go into recess and have a break, this is going to be a little bit of a longer recess. So most of administration is going to be packing up all of the material and any gear that's no longer necessary in the room. So we will be in recess for about 20 minutes.

We will come back at 3.20 and then carry out the last items of your agenda. But yeah, we stand in recess until 3.20. Council, up to you.

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[Chair]
What are we doing? Secretary Sarah Wolfe moves to go on camera. Representative Dunfield?

[Legal Counsel Jason Madden]
Hi, Mr. Chair. I think in light of the conversation that happened at the end of the meeting, it might be, this is the point where we probably should recess the Citizens Council meeting so that we can go in camera with the Citizens Council and legal as we did yesterday.

[Chair]
Suspend, Council. I think that's a good idea.

[Legal Counsel Jason Madden]
Suspend Citizens Council meeting.

[Chair]
Okay. We have one motion to go on camera, but no seconder. And then a recommendation to suspend, Council.

So you folks tell me where are we going with this? Legal counsel

[Legal Counsel Candice Telford]
Just going to suggest we go in camera and then we discuss the suspension piece.

[Chair]
Okay, Legal counsel has made recommendations. Secretary Leddy has moved to go on camera.

[Secretary Leddy]
I'll second going in camera.

[Chair]
Oh, sorry, Secretary Leddy seconds going in camera.

[Chair]
Okay, it sounds like Council would like to entertain a motion to suspend the June 18, 2026 Citizens' Council meeting until 4.40 p.m., at which time the meeting shall be recalled and resumed. Is there someone who wishes to make that motion? Representative Paul-Alook makes that motion.

Secretary Collins, do you wish to second? Your mic is on. Motion is seconded.

Is there any opposition to the motion? Seeing no opposition, the motion carries.

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[Chair]
Okay, thumbs up. We will recall, resume and recall the June 18, 2026 meeting of the Citizens Council to order from suspension. Two agenda items remaining, one being 13 in-camera items being a personnel matter which was tabled from in June 17, Citizens Council meeting.

Looking for a motion to go in-camera. I believe Secretary Leddy moves to go in-camera, Secretary Lisa Wolfe seconds. Is there any opposition to going in-camera?

Seeing none, we will go into closed session.

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[Chair]
Please recall we are live streaming. Thumbs up is there. Madam Clerk, would you read the external facing motion, please?

[Acting Clerk Lindsay Henderson]
Be it resolved by the Citizens' Council that the resolutions regarding a confidential human resource matter be adopted as presented.

[Chair]
In a mover we have Secretary Lisa Wolfe and in a seconder Representative Paul-Alook. I'm looking to you to confirm both. Confirmed.

Is there any opposition to the motion? I'm going to call one more time to be sure. Is there any opposition to that motion?

Motion carries. Those resolutions are so adopted. Madam President, do you wish to give closing remarks to the meeting today?

Shall we call it a day? Very good. No closing remarks today.

There being no further business on the agenda of the June 18th Citizens' Council meeting, Council stands adjourned until July 2026.

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