Citizens' Council Meeting – July 29, 2026

Unofficial Transcript

[Acting Chair Tyler Fetch]
You all know me, I'm your Acting Chair. Your Chair was unable to be in person today, but has graciously joined online. I'm going to call the meeting to order. It is 1.30. And in accordance with the agenda, we will ask our Elder Dianne to provide us an opening prayer. Start us off in a good way.

[Elder Dianne Ludwig]
Hello again, everybody. I'm hoping that you had a beautiful dinner, beautiful lunch. It was really enjoyable.

And outside looks beautiful, too. And I'd like to welcome all our new relatives that came in. My name is Dianne.

Creator, as the sun walks its slow path toward the western sky, we've cause to breathe, to give thanks, to remember that each heart beat is a gift. The warmth of this day rests upon Aski, the earth, the wind carries our prayers across the waters, and the songs of the birds remind us that life continues ever in times of heaviness. We remember those who have a journeyed on, the Kitayak, the old ones, the children, Hawassuk, and the warriors, and all our loved ones whose ripples still touch our lives.

We carry their stories as bundles of truth, not as burdens, but as teachings. Today we ask for truth and strength. May our words be the maskihkiy, the medicine.

For those around us, may our actions be guided by kisikohk, the heavens and the sky, above and by the steady heartbeat of Askiy beneath our feet. May we ever walk so softly. Creator, help us to work humbly and to walk humbly, to forgive where there is pain, to speak with kindness, always be kind to whoever you meet, and to protect the land and the waters entrusted to us, because if we don't do that, who's going to do it?

We have to teach our young people how to look after our water and the earth. As the light begins its journey towards evening, let our spirits bend like the willow, resilient and never broken. There's something about that willow, it doesn't matter what you do with it, it keeps coming back, and that's how we are as Métis people.

Let our heart shine like the stars that follows the sunset, a reminder that even in the coming night, hope and love still endure. Marci for this day, for the chance to live, to love, and to give, and to grow. Have a beautiful afternoon, have a beautiful meeting.

[Acting Chair]
Thank you so much Elder Dianne, beautiful words that could carry us through our meetings today and tomorrow. Your next item on your agenda is the adoption of the agenda. You should all have an agenda in front of you.

This requires a motion to adopt, and I would look to the floor. I see Secretary Chodzicki and Secretary Leddy, mover and seconder, and I recognize Brooke Bramfield online, the Secretary Bramfield, go ahead.

[Secretary Brooke Bramfield]
Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would just like to request that we add gas cards back onto the agenda today. In summary, I'm wanting to bring forward a motion to review the the budget for gas cards and do a cost analysis to see if we need to increase it based on previous year's attendance and the expected attendance this year.

I know online that there was, and for my citizens, there's a lot of concern that about the first come first serve, and it's going to ultimately exclude a lot of people from being able to attend because they're not sure whether or not they're going to actually receive a gas card. So that's the purpose of why I'm bringing it forward. And I'd like to add it to the agenda.

[Acting Chair]
If it's okay with you, tomorrow on the agenda, we have the citizens gathering discussion. And could we just look to add it to that as another item regarding the citizens gathering?

[Secretary Bramfield]
Yes.

[Acting Chair]
Okay. So we'll try to remember that. And if not, please bring it up.

Anything else? Seeing nothing, I'd look to the floor for any objections. Looking, seeing none online.

Excellent. We have adopted the agenda. Next item is the President's Welcome.

So I pass it to Madam President to provide that.

[President Andrea Sandmaier]
Thank you, Chair. Again, thank you so much, Elder Dianne, for opening us up our Council meeting in such a good way. Always a pleasure to have you around the table and have you in the room with your calming presence.

So thank you so much for being here. I just want to begin by providing an update on our government to government work that we've been doing. On Friday, July 17th, I met with Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, Rebecca Alty.

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We met during the Back to Batoche days at the Alberta Cabin to discuss the strength of our nation-to-nation relationship and the shared priorities we are advancing together, most notably our self-government agreement. And during our discussions, I pressed the Minister to continue making progress on our self-government treaty negotiations. And we're looking forward to further dialogue as I'm happy to announce that she will be attending this year's Citizens Gathering in Slave Lake, which is very, very exciting.

She's very excited about coming as well. During our discussion, I made it clear that Métis rights in Alberta cannot be sidelined and we also called for immediate consultation on the West Coast Pipeline, just as the federal government had done with the TMX. We want to make sure that we're doing this in a good way like they like they did with TMX.

Our rights holders have the right to be consulted regarding lands and waterways that could be affected and that means we must be meaningfully consulted. The Minister confirmed that Canada intends to be a strong partner with us, the Otipemisiwak Métis government, and of course we are looking forward to continuing the good work that we have been doing with Minister Alty and CIRNA. Before I move on, I also want to take a moment just to reflect on Batoche itself.

Alberta Day went incredibly well, despite the heat again. Our people showed up with energy and pride. We had some great entertainers.

It was a great day on Alberta Day. I also want to talk about the Alberta cabin this year. It was incredibly well received, had so many good comments from our own citizens and Métis citizens across the homeland.

It was absolutely beautiful. It was nice to be able to host our meeting with Minister Alty at the cabin. She was able to speak to our artists, to our languages team, to staff, it was a great way for her to come and meet with us.

I want to thank again Tyler and your team at the amazing job that you guys did putting the Alberta cabin together. We had lots of things going on in the cabin. There was a detailed history of Métis communities across the five territories.

We hosted cultural activities including sash weaving, bag charm workshop and beading circles. It was a powerful, powerful reminder about the strength of our culture and I'm very, very grateful to all of those who contributed to make it so memorable for us as well as our citizens that attended Batoche and citizens across the homeland. As it was passed in our last Citizens Council meeting, we have officially appointed Daniel Kwan-Watson as our new interim senior executive officer.

Daniel has already begun meeting with directors, familiarizing himself with the moving pieces of our governance structure and we're very excited about the direction he will help lead us in. This past weekend, we completed the final five-stop stretch of our province-wide Kitchen Party tour. We brought music, dance, great conversations, lots of visiting, Métis culture to communities from north to south to east to west across Alberta.

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We visited 13 communities. We were unfortunately unable to have our Kitchen Party in Grandee Prairie due to weather and Conklin due to the passing of a beloved elder. As part of our ongoing efforts to advance Métis rights in Alberta, we've been filming a documentary throughout this tour.

We've been interviewing elders, knowledge holders, youth, harvesters and community members with deep familial and historical connections to Métis communities across this province. Through this documentary, we aim to share the rich history of our Métis communities in Alberta and to establish their unique place in the broader story of the Métis Nation. This is something that we've talked about many times at this table regarding different when different things come up in the media or through conversations with with citizens or other Métis across the homeland that we we need to make sure that we're out in front of things and making sure that non-Indigenous folks know who we are as Métis here in and that we have been here before this province was established. We have historical communities in this province and to combat the there are no Métis in Alberta and Métis have no rights in Alberta.

So this is one piece of that that will lead up to the Métis Rights in Alberta conference that we will be hosting in October, which we will be getting a detailed briefing note to you shortly. It will be very that the conference is very intentional so there will be invitations that will go out to historical families, those that were in the documentary, academics, etc. So you look for that in your in your inbox soon.

That is all that I have for right now. So I thank you very much and we have full agenda so we'll get to it. Thank you.

[Acting Chair]
Thank you President Sandmaier. I will look to just make sure we have no questions. Wow all right we'll move on to agenda item number five which is the meeting minutes.

So there's three items here, each requiring a motion. So we'll start with number 5A, the Draft Citizens Council minutes from June 17th, 2026 and pass to our Secretary of Records, Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Good afternoon everyone. All right so for the first of the three meeting minutes presented to you June 17th, I just want to thank everybody who filled out the surveys for the meeting minutes and put in any recommended amendments. I really appreciate all of your feedback that you do put in and I encourage those that who did not or maybe are still confused about how to do the surveys to please reach out to me if you have questions because the more that we have citizens Representatives answer those surveys the better and more accurate it is to reflect the wishes of Council for the meeting minutes themselves.

So for June 17th there were two amendment requests regarding the same thing, that the Council names be recorded for the vote that was conducted which is a motion 2026-0617-4

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on page 3. If you look at the result it says vote conducted and there's a little number 1 there, a footnote which leads down to the bottom. Now for this one it says procedural deviation notation as a result of an oversight by the chair the detailed record of participation in this vote was not recorded at the time it was undertaken and is not available.

The fail-safes that we had in place like the video and stuff to see if we could even address the vote that wasn't recorded unfortunately there was some leg, a technical difficulty and we couldn't even see whose hands were up. So unfortunately that vote is not conducted and that is noted as a procedural deviation and hopefully that will not happen again. That is the only recommended amendment for the June 17th meeting minutes.

Is there any questions?

[Acting Chair]
Secretary Dunfield, sorry Representative Dunfield.

[Representative Shannon Dunfield]
No worries thank you Mr. Chair. I appreciate that. Thank you Secretary Wolfe for that update.

The only, one of the questions I did have because we don't have a rules of procedure in place, would it be appropriate to ask those member, ask those citizens Representatives who voted against to please identify themselves. I don't think we've had everything anything in place before but it is a question especially as as those of us around the table took note of I believe there were five. So just asking if there is a process or a procedure in place where we can ask those ones who voted against it to identify themselves as the rest voted in favor.

[President Sandmaier]
Okay what was the number of the motion again?

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
So it's the 2026-06-17-4.

[Acting Chair]
I'm thinking so I'm not sure there's no set process currently or codified process right now. So it would be to this table I would think to decide how you would wish to go forward. Yeah looking for some, looking for some input also from from others so not sure how to answer that.

That's a really great question.

[Representative Dunfield]
I mean Mr. Chair I do have my meeting notes that I took so I mean I think it's only fair to ask those who who did vote against it to please let us know. I also do recall the chair asking if the clerk of the council had recorded the votes and and I remember the the answer was yes.

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So I think there's an opportunity here for for those to be able to share their votes and so our citizens have honest accounting of the meeting minutes.

[Acting Chair]
I see others lights on but Secretary Mitchell would you I think Secretary of Records should go first okay Secretary Mitchell go ahead.

[Secretary Kaila Mitchell]
I'm just hearing whispers around me like I don't know if people actually remember. Yeah.

[Acting Chair]
I'm going to go to Senior Director Garrett Tomlinson who is the chair for that meeting and look for his input. So Mr. Tomlinson.

[Senior Director Garrett Tomlinson]
Yeah I can speak to that so I did ask the clerk at the result of the motion if she had recorded the result. What we didn't record was the votes themselves one by one because I didn't go around the room and then panel each person to speak to their vote. We took it as a show of hands for and against and that was my oversight for sure.

The way to correct that in the record if council so wishes to correct that in a record would be to bring a motion outside of the minutes to ratify the result that's recorded in the minutes for that motion. The record is the record the the motion did pass and then record the the result of that ratification. It would be irregular to try and ask folks to remember exactly how they may or may not have voted on a specific motion six weeks ago and then put that to the record based on people's best memory when we can't test that best memory against an official record.

So the way to do that would be to introduce a motion to ratify that result and record the result of the ratification and people can vote their conscience at that time and it could be recorded.

[Acting Chair]
Thank you. Secretary Sarah Wolfe is fine. So I would look to Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Karen Collins]
You're both absolutely right this is an irregular piece facing the challenge of this Métis government. It was this table who asked that when it comes to a vote that the count be recorded and the names be recorded because if I recall you so that your citizens will know how you voted. To me when that decision was made that was an important one.

Now this vote this motion doesn't even show a count. Was it only by one vote? Was it only one person voted against?

It doesn't show the count and it certainly doesn't show the names. Now I'm sure that there are people around this table who remember how they voted because it was only a mere six

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weeks ago and that even though there's not a process couldn't you volunteer so that our records become showing properly and your citizens know how you voted? There must be a process that we can do so it becomes recorded because I don't know what another motion coming out of this to say oh yeah we concur that it was carried by majority.

It's still doesn't resolve the issues that are being raised. All it says is yeah that motion that we passed in those minutes it's still a majority so I'm not sure how you how we want to do that but if indeed by record by memory or by video we can't we can't get the information that we need required to do the our minutes then I think we better put our heads back into it and say how are we gonna ensure that these things don't happen again and I'm saying that because it was at one point very important to this table that people's votes get recorded how you voted and like I said and this doesn't even reflect the count so those things concern me because we're for we have you know we put things in place and we steer off of it and I don't know if it's by convenience or what it is but we steer off me then we put something back in place now it's important today but it's not so important six weeks down the road or whatever that's not consistency on how we're wanting to build this government and these and it and it's almost every meeting now something comes up that says oh well we'll deal with that when it comes to procedures we'll deal with it when it comes to procedures we started that procedure stuff quite a while ago and if those pieces are so important to us on the procedures of how we operate then we better darn well pull our socks up and go back and do the work surrounding those procedures because it's starting to affect our operations and here we go again spending a long a long time on discussing minutes when those kind of in my mind easy-peasy things could be dealt with very much earlier so that concerns me a bit Mr. chair and like I said I don't know what a second motions gonna do just to say yeah it's still a majority there's no count to this.

[Acting Chair]
I think mr Tomlinson has something to add about procedures and process in place.

[Senior Director Tomlinson]
Yeah I mean I can speak to the oversight I mean Secretary Collins you're right it's a government of you and eventually there's going to be human errors inevitably and this is one of those times it's not to suggest that the the direction of council is any less important with respect to recording these results we take that direction very seriously and we've taken steps to make sure that that sort of oversight can't happen again whenever there's a vote that does go to contest we now have a detailed procedure that the clerk and the chair will follow that's documented going forward so that we don't run into this sort of issue again even if all of the technology fails behind us so the question is really for for council if you want to record the the wishes of council going forward and develop insert that into an official record I mean there's a way to do that today to go back and adjust the record of that days based on best memories I mean you guys can make that decision just understand that best memory tested against an unavailable record is probably not the most effective way rather than generating a new decision with an official record based on people's actions that can be recorded today.

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[Acting Chair]
To you, Secretary Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Thank you so much so thank you for the clarification Mr. Tomlinson, I really appreciate that so what I understand is that separate to the minutes we would make another motion for this like to conduct another vote and then that vote would then be recorded to how people would have voted at that time and then that vote would be the one that would get recorded for this month's minutes

[Senior Director Tomlinson]
correct

[Acting Chair]
Representative Dunfield legacy hand or current hand

[Representative Dunfield]
Sorry, current hand, Mr. Chair.

[Acting Chair]
Go ahead.

[Representative Dunfield]
Just to clarify really quickly Secretary Wolfe there wasn't a number recorded it was just passed by majority we don't know how many for and against is that correct according to your documentation and and looking back at the record yes that is correct okay and just so I can clarify to if I understand correctly what I understood and please correct me Mr. chair even though I know Secretary Wolfe sorry Mr. Tomlinson Secretary Wolfe said this I understood that what you were saying was that we would vote to ratify the vote not necessarily to vote on that vote again so basically we would all come together and say yes we ratify that the majority voted in favor that the majority voted for this for that the majority voted to pass this motion is

[Senior Director Tomlinson]
that correct yeah that's right you'd be ratifying the results of that motion number and then if there wasn't consensus which I presume there would not be consensus because there isn't consensus that it was just a simple majority and it should be reported it would go to a vote and the pair would then go around the table and count those who are in favor of the result and those who are opposed to it and that becomes your your new record related to that decision.

[Representative Dunfield]
Okay I'll leave it to the table to decide thank you

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[Acting Chair]
Thank you. Secretary Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Yeah I feel most comfortable moving with that I don't particularly like to rely on memory for things such as this and actually changing the recorded documentation but I would be happy to go forward with Mr. Tomlinson's suggestion with conducting another motion on the ratification whatever the proper terminology is for what we're doing I will look to the chair for that one, thank you.

[Acting Chair]
Okay thank you I'll look to Secretary Bramfield with her hand up online.

[Secretary Bramfield]
Thank you yeah I I mean I wish we voted I mean I wish we recorded the vote I mean I remember how I voted but I think voting to ratify the vote in which we already know that even though we don't know the who voted for it against and whatever else that it's majority passed so I'm not sure the purpose of ratifying it I guess I would just say it's unfortunate that this wasn't captured originally but I'm not sure the purpose of ratifying it we know that the vote ultimately passed and I hope we don't miss it again

[Acting Chair]
Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
If the table is comfortable with that as well I am confident that the ruling of majority was correct as is written in the documentation I too am a little bit disappointed that the names weren't recorded but the chair did already or the chair for that meeting did already mention that it was an oversight and we're attempting to rectify this and has also stated that it won't happen again because more attention will be taken to make sure that names are recorded in the future so I guess I look to the table on whether we do the ratification motion or if we just move along with the information that is already detailed in the minutes.

[Acting Chair]
Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Aura Leddy]
I would be happy to move along at this point because there is I want to get to the other items on the agenda and I agree that it's unfortunate that that vote wasn't recorded in the way that we kind of expected however the vote happened and even us recording making the ratification now doesn't change the outcomes of that vote and what happened so at this point with the footnote I feel like it's the best we can do to document the record for the meeting that day so do we need a mover for the minutes it has not been moved usually

[Acting Chair]

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okay it's usually the Secretary but we have a Secretary Aura Leddy moves the Secretary Sarah Wolfe will second I think Representative Ward you had your light on you're good confident again is there any further discussion so we look for consensus after the discussion as to whether or not we accept the minutes as presented seeing no opposition we accept these minutes as is presented okay so we have item number B under item item number 5 B the draft Citizens Council minutes for June 18th 2026 once again look to the Secretary of Records to present it Secretary Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
thank you okay so for the June 18th minutes there was one proposed amendment to add additional information to on page 3 motion 2026 06 18-3 the additional information was to add context as to why the motion itself was stood down however I just want to make a note that it's not precedent for us to add context as to why the minutes were stood down for any reason that has always been reflected within the amendments when the minutes were passed later on whether that was clarification needed or we needed to talk to certain staff members or legal there has never been precedent for adding context to the minutes and if I guess citizens really wish to have further context as to why a motion was stood down or tabled or anything they would be welcome to take a look at the unofficial transcript which is posted online usually very quickly and then when it is posted the recording of the meeting itself so that amendment was not accepted and you can see on page 8 which is motion 2026 06 18 the amendment to the minutes at that time which was the action item number one legal counsel and administration to confer with the Chair of the Judicial Tribunal and return to Citizens Council with recommendations in respect to the Chair in respect to Chair Chartrand's Judicial Tribunal report is is reflected there which is we know the reason why the minutes were stood down initially. Thank you.

[Acting Chair]
Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
There probably has to be a correction made to this too. We have two motions 2026 06 18 3 and they're two different motions reflecting two different sets of minutes so one should probably be 3 and one should probably be 4 subsequently changing the rest of them.

[Acting Chair]
Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
I just want to look to our clerk to make sure that we have that documented. Perfect. We will make that change.

[Acting Chair]
Thank you and just noting that it then all subsequent motions need to be moved in accordance with that change yeah okay anything else oh I see Secretary Blatz.

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[Secretary Gabrielle Blatz]
Sorry is the reason why there's two of the dash threes because the first dash three was stood down as a motion and so then the second one just became dash three because it ceased to exist yeah

[Acting Chair]
no I and I think that's exactly why it was done but there's nothing saying you couldn't still order them because it's in it is recorded and so it could be numbered in accordance with where it sits within the conference discussion if it was completely rescinded and never recorded then that number wouldn't be there so I think there's nothing wrong with with adjusting it to make sure because it's recorded in order so there's no objection we can accept that Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
Well Mr. Chair that was gonna that was gonna be my point it was stood down there's no reason telling us why it was stood down it doesn't tell us anywhere if it was stood back up and and so because it was recorded moved duly moved and seconded it becomes part of the minutes so wherever this motion is floating because it's stood down remains where it is because it does address two different sets of minutes.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

[Acting Chair]
Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Yeah I would also just like to say in other meeting minutes when the minutes have been stood down for discussion and then readdressed later it is documented as a different motion number so I think it's important that we do correct that.

[Acting Chair]
Any other comments, amendments? Not seeing any so we would be moving to accept these minutes as amended and Secretary Sarah Wolfe is still moving. Okay is there a seconder?

I see Secretary Chodzicki, sorry Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
Is it amended and corrected?

[Acting Chair]
We could say that yeah amended and corrected yeah so then I would look for consensus or any opposition seeing none these minutes are adopted as amended and corrected. The 5C Draft Citizens Council meeting minutes July 8th 2026 I once again look to our Secretary of Records to present them to the floor.

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[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
All right we're almost done. There were no recommended amendments for the July 8th meeting minutes. There were also no redactions to the recording so if anybody has anything further to add great but if not Mr. Chair I would like to also move these minutes. Thank you.

[Acting Chair]
So Secretary Sarah Wolfe moves, Secretary Leddy is seconding. Any discussion or corrections amendments? Making sure online seeing none so moved.

Okay so we move to item number six. This is the Chair's report A and B so the first is update on actions from Citizens Council meeting June 18th 2026. I know the Chair's report was actually circulated fairly relatively early so you assume you'd had time to look at it so I would just look for questions on what you would have read and go from there.

Recognizing Secretary Mitchell.

[Secretary Mitchell]
On page 6 of 8 the December 24th 2025 request I think I would like to remove that until I have something more fleshed out so that it's not just sitting on the paper. Page 6 of 8. At the top there.

Yeah December 24th 2025 that one if you guys would like to remove that I am totally fine with it until I have something more substantial to bring forward on that and that way it'll it'll get off your to-do list and okay.

[Acting Chair]
I can sit in there and then be brought forward at some future date as well. Mr. Tomlinson.

[Senior Director Tomlinson]
Okay yeah.

[Acting Chair]
This is his report.

[Senior Director Tomlinson]
I'm happy to record it as withdrawn for now Secretary Mitchell and we can bring it back. It'll be recorded in the next report is withdrawn and we can bring it back whenever you're ready after you've had time with it.

[Acting Chair]
She says sounds good. Thank you. I will go to Representative Dunfield online.

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank you Mr. Chair. Just wanting to clarify on the update upcoming dates for Cabinet and Council meetings. It says November 22nd and 23rd for Cabinet and Citizens Council.

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I'm assuming those dates are wrong because that's a Sunday and a Monday. Are we meeting Sunday and Monday?

[Senior Director Tomlinson]
We're definitely not meeting Sunday and Monday. I will take that back and find the correct dates and happy to correct it for tomorrow.

[Representative Dunfield]
Yeah it's the 25th and 26th so I just wanted to clarify that. The other question I had I know this might be more of a question for President Sandmaier. The last couple of meetings we have added that half day on for Citizens Council the day before.

Is that are we still going to continue that process? I know there was a motion that we look at adding the half day to do some of the legislative review pieces so I just wanted to know just more for for planning and processing.

[Acting Chair]
President Sandmaier.

[President Sandmaier]
I'm gonna have to look at those dates and get back to you. It will all depend on the amount of work that has to be done by Cabinet as well but we can we can look at the at least the fall dates and get back to you on that.

[Representative Dunfield]
Okay thank you.

[Acting Chair]
Thank you Secretary Blatz.

[Secretary Blatz]
Thank you. I just noticed that missing in this in this document is the pieces about the 2SLGBTQ Advisory Council and the the training. That was I think in April if I remember correctly but I noticed that it wasn't logged into this and so just making sure that that gets added and there's an update on where we're at with that for the cost analysis.

[Acting Chair]
Thank you. We got a thumbs up from Mr. Tomlinson and the recording recorder has notified she got it. So noted. Anything else? Any other comments or updates?

[Acting Chair]
Okay so I think at the beginning there is a motion. Is this required or just a motion to accept the Chair's report with suggested changes as presented or as presented with suggested additions and changes? Does that sound correct?

Okay. Secretary Blatz moves. Do I have a seconder?

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Secretary Chodzicki. Discussion or no? Opposition?

So moved. Thank you. The next item is agenda requests.

Oh yeah sorry that was at the back of the report. Yeah yeah yeah okay. I didn't write it.

Yeah so it's all it's all the same piece. My apologies.

[Acting Chair]
Our titled correspondence. So I would I would look to Mr. Tomlinson as this is a chair item.

[Senior Director Tomlinson]
Sure. Council this is as you find it it is a letter from the Mikisew First Nation to Citizens Council. Received through the Office of the Chair.

It's there for your review and information. The writer asks that it be shared with your government colleagues within your government. Presumably your district council colleagues.

Beyond that it it's there as an information item to be received for information.

[Acting Chair]
Thank you. Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
Thank you Mr. Chair. I'm really happy to see a tab here with correspondence to to our government. We don't usually see any of those pieces that come to our government.

So thank you for that and if this is going to be a new piece wonderful. I would be prepared to move the motion. However I would also I would also like to add that we acknowledge the letter to the Mikisew saying we've received it and that we will be sharing it among our within our government and by the sounds of it the school is in Edmonton so it's probably a good thing for our Representatives from Edmonton circulate that because we know some of our families are of mixed nature and there might be students that are within that. So if we can acknowledge back to them that we've received it and that we circulated that would be great and I would so move.

[Acting Chair]
President Sandmaier

[President Sandmaier]
Yeah so I will respond to the letter and CC all of you on the letter when I send it out. So if we can action that as well. So we will action that letter and we'll just we'll CC everybody when we send it out.

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[Acting Chair]
Okay so we had the mover was Secretary Collins and Secretary Chodzicki said he will second it but we'll reread the motion with the addition if that's okay just to make sure we know what we're moving and what we're voting on. Okay. Can I ask a question first?

Okay. What are you doing with the Mikisew letter? Are you giving it to the districts?

Are you because I think what it's asking for is to share it with people within the Métis Nation for them to attend the school. Am I misreading this?

[President Sandmaier]
We can also action sending it out to district captains and obviously especially those that are in the city and we'll also send it to Director Lisa Saville for our ally.

[Acting Chair]
Secretary Lisa Wolfe.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Yes thank you very much Mr. Chair I just wanted to add a friendly minute before you read that but I just wanted to say you know I would recommend a second you guys were all talking and then you got second before I even got a chance to get in but anyways just to say that the Secretary of Education as well you know that welcomes that their involvement with the school and within our City of Edmonton.

Yeah that's what I was going to recommend so we'd love to have him.

[Acting Chair]
We're just trying to craft this and then we'll read it back.

[Secretary Collins]
Mr. Chair while she's crafting can I?

[Acting Chair]
Yes please Secretary Collins go ahead.

[Secretary Collins]
And I don't know if they sent this to Métis Settlements but this might be something that in our conversation in the future with Settlements that this might be something that we just share in passing. Because we might have citizens that are here that are from Settlements. But just to speak to it not in any official capacity because that's not our place in space and we don't know if they sent a letter to them but just in conversation are you aware of this new school that in case you have people to attend that's where I'm going with it.

Thank you.

[Acting Chair]
Go read this back and make sure that is exactly what we want to say.

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[Representative Catherine Schnell]
Excuse me could I say one thing before you put that through?

[Acting Chair]
Yes absolutely Representative Schnell.

[Representative Schnell]
I just read at the bottom of the letter it says that please see the attached poster and pamphlet. Should we make any reference to that or can that just be shared with everybody when you do your reply letter Madam President?

[President Sandmaier]
We didn't receive a digital copy of it just a like a poster to put up on our bulletin board so I don't know how we would get it out to everybody.

[Representative Schnell]
Could you scan it and send it out? Because that would help. Yeah we can do that.

Okay thank you.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
The motion now reads be it resolved by the Citizens Council that the correspondence received from Mikisew Cree First Nation dated July 13th 2026 regarding land-based learning and academics new school in Edmonton for grade 10 students be accepted for information and that President Sandmaier respond to the correspondence and provide it to Citizens Council, District Captains and the Interim Director of Education Training and Research.

[Acting Chair]
How's that sound? Mover and Secretary? Secretary Collins you're good with that?

Is that the motion you want to make? Or she's crafting something. Excellent.

Secretary's good. Okay so we have that motion. Oh Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Sorry about that I was just wondering to go along with Secretary other Wolfe's comment should it say that President Sandmaier alongside the Secretary of Education like respond to the letter? So I guess that would be a friendly amendment.

[Acting Chair]
President Sandmaier?

[President Sandmaier]
I think we could do we could even do separate letters if we wanted Secretary Wolfe that way they know we're both listening.

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[Acting Chair]
So we have this motion it's been read it has been moved and seconded is there any other discussion? I would look to the floor for any opposition and online. I know I'm seeing none.

It is moved. Break. I will we will recess.

I'm going exactly off of the agenda so it's 2.25 we'll come back at 2.40 and give the 15 minute break.

So I recess for now until 2.40. It's 2.44 we'll call the meeting back to order.

[Acting Chair]
I hear these scones are delicious so so I give you that leeway. We'll move on with the agenda we're on agenda item number eight and that's the OMG administration report and it's the senior executive officers report so I will hand it over to our senior executive officer.

[Interim Senior Executive Officer Daniel Quan-Watson]
Well thank you everyone I think tomorrow marks my third week officially here or maybe today marks my third week here and if I had known how hard the work was gonna be and how much there was to be done I'd have actually been even more excited when I started and I'm having a wonderful time I am meeting some extraordinarily passionate and dedicated people who are doing great things and I see my role as to help them and to help you make a living thing the dream that so many previous generations of Métis had but never actually got to see in having a Métis government and so anytime there's a challenge or an issue I remind myself of that fact and I am thrilled to be a part of it. So where I've been as so far and I'll mostly today talk about what I have done and some of the key things I've observed and what I'm planning to do with them. I started out by meeting with directors as I mentioned that I would when I first spoke with you back three weeks ago I guess it is now.

I've mostly completed that tour there are a finish that up by tomorrow. I met with all of the directors yesterday for the first time and I'll talk a bit about that in a moment or two but we had our first all directors meeting yesterday. So where I've started is in reviewing the decision-making flows and the information that's provided to decision makers no matter where they are in the organization in the making of decisions and I've always been of the view that accountable decisions mean that you need to understand what the options are that are available to you when you're making a decision and I have always said to people there is no such thing as you have no choice you always have a choice sometimes the choices are very messy and very ugly but you need to know what the choices are to you but you also need to know what the consequences are and one of the things that's true for example about the finances of the OMG is that they are some of the most micromanaged and some of the tightest finances that any government in Canada has and I said to the cabinet group this morning that if you're at the government of Canada government of Alberta for that matter at the government of the city of Edmonton you raise most of your own revenues and that means that you make almost all the rules about how those get spent but OMG has very little funding where it gets to decide itself where to spend it that's why

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you're negotiating a treaty that's why you're negotiating a fiscal financing agreement that will actually allow those decisions to rest where they should but in the intervening period the funding comes from contribution agreements and I know these contribution agreements really well because I've signed tens of thousands of them over the years and they're micromanagement documents and they don't leave a lot of wiggle room and so for you to truly understand what resources are really available to you if you want to say yes to something means you have to have the system in place that unpacks all of those things that figures out which the electrified barbed wire fences are that surround certain dollars and identify some of the free-range dollars that there might be but there are very few free-range dollars in the world of the OMG and we in the administration are not doing you a service if we can't tell you what that picture looks like so I'm spending a fair bit of time on understanding both the finances and the information systems that are there to help budget into the future and track expenditures so I had as part of that former chief financial officer that I worked with for a number of years come in for a very short period of time and she's doing a mapping exercise and she is going to help draw a picture I use the example of me being a pilot and I have a dashboard and that dashboard is designed to have on it the instruments that tell me all the things if I don't pay attention to will get me killed in the next 10 minutes and if you are missing a bunch of those gauges that means there's something that will make you fly into something you don't want to fly into because you didn't know about it and so this exercise is more or less a mapping of that dashboard that is saying is there anything missing and I just want to be clear this isn't a criticism of anyone or anything else the system grew up how it grew up but you have a different set of expectations on you now from when you were a society under the Society's Act governments have different play expectations placed on them by citizens by the people that fund you and just in general everywhere you go and the administration needs to keep pace with that change and support you as you face what you're going to face in this world so had a first directors meeting yesterday that really focused on establishing approach to work as a team and for a series of organizations are really based on programs that came out of contribution agreements because some federal department or sort of provincial department said hey we'll give you some money to do this thing that we want to see done not necessarily because it was your priority but because we the federal or we the provincial government thought it was a good idea that's something that grows up in its own direction and it doesn't necessarily mean that people have a history of thinking as a unit as thinking as collaborative as they necessarily could and are going to be required to when the answers all come out in the name of one single government maybe many different departments but one single government and so I talked about that I talked about the values and ethics that I want to make sure we bring to the leadership of the administration and we'll continue that conversation but I also said to them I suspect we will be spending an awful lot of time talking about defining what the real problem is we're trying to solve because I found over the years if you don't agree on what the problem is you're trying to solve whatever solutions you bring to it aren't going to work in the course of what I've looked at so far I've found a number of I'll call it pieces of a Rubik's Cube they're all connected together and if you move one it affects another and this isn't a comprehensive list but it's a pretty solid core of a list of things that I have found and I expect that we'll need to deal with and the first one is a

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coherent approach to budget forecasting and tracking mentioned that already but making sure that those pieces are pulled together second one these are no particular order is making sure that there's common terms and conditions of employment and just making sure that when you're operating as a single administration as a single government even if there are different programs within it that you can manage it as a unit that you don't have pieces that operate significantly differently in the basic terms and conditions of employment than other parts of the organization another piece that will need to be addressed are the questions a conflict of interest for employees it's a core part of any organization unfortunately at this point in time we're in a world where the world has evolved to go well beyond the narrow financial things that used to be in conflict of interest regulations everywhere and so we'll need to think of what is appropriate to include in a code that implies to employees but beyond that we're and I used to be the chief human resources officer for the whole of the Government of Canada where you most often find that you have people that are eroding or causing damage in your organization or alternately in the positive side of the coin where you have people who are most acting in a way that is creating the organization you want is around code of conduct it's around values and ethics and currently there isn't anything in place that says what's expected of employees on that front in an organized way that needs to be looked into there's a question about procurement it ties into it a lot of money goes out buying different things making sure that the right approaches are there the right philosophies the right mechanisms are there the right values and ethics are there is going to be critically important I'm not saying at this point in time that I've found great problems there I'm just saying as you're putting this Rubik's Cube together that is an important piece that has to be considered that will be tied to most of the others and then the final one is about operating expenditures for capital so probably the most boring thing that I could talk to you about is capital depreciation and related operational costs and that's what I thought all my life until I became the CEO of Parks Canada and somebody said you now own 26 billion dollars of built assets and they depreciate at three million dollars a day and a bunch of these things if they fall apart people will drown because we own dikes that protected certain cities like Peterborough Ontario if you didn't have dikes around it and guess what nobody wants to pay to fix dikes that are a hundred years old that nobody thinks about the example I used this morning was the HMCS Haida if there are any veterans here they will know that it's the most decorated warship in Canadian history you can go to Hamilton today to see it and Parks Canada fought tooth and nail not to receive that as a $1 gift and the reason that we fought tooth and nail not to receive it as a $1 gift wasn't because we didn't think it was a cool thing but because it costs more to save that than it costs to run Banff National Park and it keeps costing that every single year and so we're gonna have to look at what it means to have a building we're gonna have to have a tracking mechanism to say well that's a nice idea but how are we gonna get the money to pay to operate that because there's a mathematical formula that tells you what it's actually gonna cost and so making sure we understand questions like that and this isn't just you know to have a nerdy accountant paradise where you run up a bunch of lovely spreadsheets this is how do you make the decisions about what you want to do how do you know when you're saying yes to something that isn't going to eat all of the other things up that you wanted to do whatever problems OMG has it doesn't have a problem with what to do with all the extra money that

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we can't find places to put what in fact you have is a situation every single time you say yes to something you're saying no to something else and I don't think it's fair I don't think it's an accountable Democratic practice if you're not in a position to know what it is you're gonna have to say no to in order to say yes to things that's the hard part about being an elected Representative that's the hard decision the hard part for the administration is to make sure you're properly supported in making those decisions now I finished more or less meeting with the directors I am now moving on to meeting with the secretaries those will all be organized in short order when I've completed that round I will meet with the rest of members of Citizens Council you don't need to bring paper to these things you don't need to have you know spreadsheets if you want to that's fine I love to talk spreadsheet but this is for me to hear what matters to you what you're happy about what you're afraid of what isn't working and I'm gonna listen is what I'm not coming to talk to you I'm coming to listen with you've got questions I'll certainly answer them I'm trying to build a picture of what do you believe you need in order to succeed I will bring to what I've heard on that front my judgment about the things that I think would best help I'll talk about those with the president will no doubt find a way to have a broader conversation about things but that's what I'm going to spend the next couple of months doing and I'm just going to close on one last piece a couple of you have asked about how it might be the case that if you had concerns about things perhaps that had happened in the past I'm not referring to any specific set of circumstances if you were concerned that there were maybe issues that contravened what the expectations would have been and you wanted to find a way to make sure that those were handled properly I am prepared to sit down and have a confidential conversation with you to receive that information what I will do from that point in time is use my judgment on what is an appropriate step forward based on the information or evidence that might have been shared with me it is not a private private investigation service in which you know you can come and ask hey could you dig up some dirt on such-and-such around me but if you have concerns where something has gone in a direction different than you would have expected I will hear what you have to say on a confidential basis and I will use the principles that apply to investigations and complaint resolution processes to determine what the next steps are and that will become my responsibility of my accountability for what I do or don't do with that at that point in time but since I had been raised I wanted to bring it up with you today so that is my report

[Acting Chair]
thank you in terms SEO any questions comments or anything oh I see you Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Bobbi Paul-Alook]
Thank you for the verbal report I'm very much looking forward to seeing more of the work unfold just in case my note-taking isn't isn't up to par and I missed anything is there a possibility that either the clerk or somebody else from administration can actually provide a written form of the report that you just gave us

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[Interim Senior Executive Officer Quan-Watson]
from to be able to figure out a way to do that I may reconsider I have speaking points that wouldn't make any sense to anyone but I can work on that or if somebody's doing a transcript we can thank you just

[Representative Paul-Alook]
just so I can reference up in future and then also the interviews that are going to be done just wondering if that's just going to be with yourself or is there other members of administration that will be attending those

[Interim Senior Executive Officer Quan-Watson]
it'll just be me I might and I haven't talked about I I might ask someone working with me to be there as a note taker but I would only do that if you were comfortable they wouldn't be an otherwise a formal participant in the meeting sometimes I prefer just to actually be fully engaged in the conversation rather than trying to write stuff down at the time but otherwise it's just me if we find some reason that we should engage other people at a different point then we'll certainly do that but in the first instance I wanted to provide the opportunity just for you to have a very frank and candid conversation with me if you wanted to do that and so just be me thank you

[Acting Chair]
Secretary Sarah Wolfe

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
Yeah I just wanted to remind everybody that we do have an unofficial transcript from this meeting so it will be recorded and Daniel's full verbal update will be recorded in the transcript that you will be able to access

[Acting Chair]
anything else from anyone I see hands moving no okay there is no motion required so oh sorry Representative Dunfield

[Representative Dunfield]
Thank You Mr. chair Daniel just to will these meetings be in person

[Interim Senior Executive Officer Quan-Watson]
they will be in whatever form you prefer except mime so yeah it ideally I won't spend my time traveling to all of those places because that will consume a lot of time that I need to be spending it elsewhere but I will either for those who are comfortable doing it virtually or on my phone they'll do it that way although I'm hoping they will all be in person and so we'll try to be as efficient as possible in finding time and places where we will be in the same place at the same time together and have those conversations face-to-face

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[Acting Chair]
okay thank you anything else see smiling faces okay with nothing else oh I see Secretary Collins

[Secretary Collins]
Mr. chair just just for the record that can we just accept his verbal report so that it becomes part of the record that he did me absolutely a report and I would so move that Mr. chair

[Acting Chair]
okay so we have a motion to accept the update of the interim SEO verbal update of the interim SEO as presented and and I think I saw seconded by Representative more okay any discussion further discussion or no any opposition excellent thank you Daniel for the update next item on our list is item number nine I'm gonna flip and make sure okay so that is Representatives business self-government act amendment Youth Council and that's look to Secretary Lavallee to present that.

[Secretary Lavallee]
Okay so this is the next kind of thing we need to do for the youth amendment so the motion is be it resolved by the Citizens Council that bill 2026 an act to amend the self-government act is hereby introduced and accepted in principle and that the bill be deemed to have been read a first time effective this day 30th of July I think that's what's be tomorrow but we got to it today and be it further resolved that the clerk is hereby directed to cause the bill to be posted to the public registry for citizen consultation for no less than 30 days prior to the bill being returned to this council for consideration on second reading so this is from the two motions that we passed in June last year to draft a bill which is appendix one where you can see the bill and then there was also the other motion for a cost analysis for the fiscal infeasibility which is appendix three and then I think the package also has all of the original documentation I had when I first proposed the bill with all of the youth councils that are part of other Métis Nations kind of the resolutions that have been passed by previous youth councils and kind of like the rationale of why a youth council would be good based on that so the next steps would be like if this was passed then the chair would refer it to the senior executive officer for a review for any compliance conflict or making sure that it aligns with our Métis government law and then on top of that if it goes before the second reading if it's passed today the public notice to consult with the citizens so it'd be sorry I just lost my train of thought so there would be media postings and stuff for consultation that I would encourage you guys to share and let citizens know so that they can have their opinions or kind of like say what they need to say about the bill if it's something that they want to go forward or you know don't want to go forward and all of that stuff yeah

[Acting Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Thank you chair I do have some comments on on the proposed amendment and I'm going to to preface my my comments first with that in in a lot in our in some of our recent meetings

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are our most recent meetings there's kind of been a limit placed on the amount or length of participation with a limit of how long we can either speak or how many times we can speak and so I'm going to try to address all of my concerns in in one comment at the beginning so that I'm not coming back and then potentially not being able to bring forward all of my thoughts so I just I just wanted to preface that because of that I have taken the time to collect my thoughts and rate them down. So first of course I'd like to thank Secretary Lavallee for bringing the proposal forward. I can see and appreciate the work that has gone into it and I support the goal of strengthening youth participation in our government.

I think that we all want young Métis citizens to have a opportunity to contribute to the future of our nation. My comments today however are not whether we should establish a Youth Advisory Council they're more about the legislative process we use to make changes to one of our foundational laws. So I want to start by looking back to November 2024 and Colin if I can just get you to put that up on the screen so when Citizens Council directed that a comprehensive legislative review and engagement process be undertaken for several of our foundational laws including the Self-Government Act and that was made under motion 2024 11 0 7 dash 16 which was brought forward by President Sandmaier and supported unanimously by Citizens Council. Council didn't simply approve the idea of a legislative review and engagement plan the Legislative Proposal and Assessment Committee or LPAC later than the next month in December of 2024 actually accepted a structured process for how amendments would be developed.

That process includes citizen surveys, legislative review, input from subject matter experts, in-person engagement sessions with our citizens, a collective what we heard report and then recommendations that came that were to come before to come from that before any legislative amendments come back to Citizens Council for first reading. The plan also identifies Citizens Council role as considering and enacting amendments based on those recommendations. The engagement plan also identified technical errors several technical errors that administration had already found in several of the laws that were to be under review including the Self-Government Act and Colin if you can scan a little bit more you can see that at the end of this document.

So that tells me that this review was intended to do more than just consider individual policy ideas. It was intended to correct known issues, review operational experience, engage with citizens and then bring forward a coordinated improvement to strengthen the Act as a whole and I think that that process exists for a reason and I also think that we should respect it. I think that today's proposal reinforces also why that comprehensive review is needed.

Today's proposed amendment isn't the only active proposed amendment to the Self-Government Act. You will note in the chair's reports and I didn't have this one posted on screen but you can actually just flip through your package to the chair's report that on May 11th 2026 a proposed amendment to the Self-Government Act was submitted and the chair determined that it was to be brought forward at a future regular meeting after being deferred due to agenda capacity. So collectively now we have two proposed amendments

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and a list which administration has already identified technical corrections that need to be addressed within the Self-Government Act.

Together those things tell me that there are multiple improvements already identified for this Act. Rather than addressing these concerns one at a time in a piecemeal kind of way through separate legislative amendments this is exactly why the comprehensive legislative review and amendment process was that was what it was designed to address. I also think there's some broader principles of responsible governments that are of governance that that are worth talking about.

I know you're trying to cut me off.

[Acting Chair]
Yeah no I need to because it is like we're actually talking about a bill that's presented and there is a standing item you're actually speaking to that would be the place to have the conversation about process. This has already gone through process to be able to get to the conversation about the bill. So we're actually the agenda item is about the bill as presented not the process.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Right and and if you let me finish my comment I'll I'll get to your point. Yep I'm almost done.

[Acting Chair]
It's not a discussion about process right this this particular item on the agenda it's not a discussion about process it's a discussion about the bill as presented and whether or not it breaches first reading. So it's it's out of order the conversation around process is it is already another agenda item and I know it's a standing item that's not been brought back but it's still another item and there's another place to have that conversation while we're actually dealing with this item right now.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I appreciate what you're saying if if you let me finish the rest of my full comment you will see that that my comment is actually regarding whether or not this we should proceed with first reading and so I'm going to finish what I what I was saying so that we don't have to come back to it after. So if we first look at respect for the decisions of Council like I said in November 2024 Citizens Council gave that clear direction that self-government would that there would be a comprehensive legislative review and engagement process. Again I think if we begin kind of piecemeal amendments before that process is taking place we risk undermining and and we start essentially undermining our own direction.

As legislators our decisions should guide our work until Council decides otherwise. Respecting our own resolutions strengthens the authority and credibility of our of our Council. Now we look at you know public trust we've committed to our citizens that they would have an opportunity in in the previous election to participate.

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[Acting Chair]
I just need to go back because it is out of order which I would say is a ruling of the chair and the option in this case would then be to vote against it in first reading when the vote is called. I think that's that's where we're talking about about the reading and I know there's a whole process discussion happening and it needs to happen like this is this is a self-government act I don't like it is coming through that from that process as well and so the conversation around process while I understand it's an important discussion and it is a part of the discussion of this table isn't a discussion on this motion so if there is something that you have regarding the reading that we're talking about yes I would I would just encourage you to get to that part in relation I know there's a there's a preface to it but just to try to keep it in scope of the actual agenda item that was brought forward.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
So whether or not I vote in support or against this is the basis for that vote and so that's why I'm explaining it and and also I think it's it's worth hearing at this table but but it's out of scope for the the item. So so then so the I guess finally then what I what I would ask at hand yeah what I would what I think that we should ask ourselves then is one really practical question out of all of this and in that case it's is a legislative amendment actually necessary to achieve the outcome that we all are supporting here and in this case I don't believe it is section 68 of the self-government act already gives Citizens Council the authority to establish advisory bodies by just a resolution or a motion including including youth advisory councils provided that appropriate accountability measures are established and so that means that if council wishes to establish a youth advisory council we already have the legal authority to do so without amending the act.

So it's not a choice between like as it was presented that this is the next logical step to get to establishing a youth council we actually have a legal mechanism already in our acts to achieve exactly that without amending the self-government act which already has two active proposals for amendment and a list of technical issues to be considered it it doesn't it doesn't make good governance sense to piecemeal amend this this act and so that would be my suggestion is that rather than rather than amending the act today we take it for consideration when we review the act in the comprehensive along with the one that was submitted in May and the technical and the technical errors that have already been identified and that today rather we move forward with presenting a motion which establishes a youth advisory council we still achieve the same objective but we don't amend an act three different times unnecessarily.

[Acting Chair]
Okay so you're speaking against the motion that was presented by Secretary Lavalle on putting forward the amendment to the self-government act as of this day to as first reading and to put it through the process to reach second reading you're just speaking against it and and that's where that's that's what I'm hearing just to make sure that we're staying within the scope of what's here yeah I can we come back there's a there's a number of speakers are you okay with that okay I have Secretary Blatz is next.

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[Secretary Blatz]
Thank you thank you to Secretary Lavallee for bringing this forward and for all the hard work from staff and everybody that have put their all into this I think that when we're talking about raising up youth voices and actually valuing them and knowing what that means I think that having a youth council is a very big priority I think especially because we have already started establishing our elders council and all of that I think that the youth council coming next just makes perfect sense and I'm very excited to see where this goes and to have our youth feel empowered to be a part of our government it's been three years now so I think that it is time to have the youth council come forward as well as our elders council so the only question I have is just a question of clarification and potentially something that we would need to amend but the qualifications for membership states to be a youth member being a citizen who is 16 years of age or older and not more than 30 years of age and then in the terms of office it said that in 105.3 a member ceases to be a member of the youth council upon reaching 30 years of age regardless of the remaining duration of the members term I was just wondering if it would be better then if 104.a be amended to say being a citizen who is 16 years of age and up to 30 years of age just to make sure that there is no confusion when that person turns 30. Thank you.

[Acting Chair]
I see Mr. Tomlinson has a hand up and I assume that it's a timely and poignant intervention so I will pass it to him.

[Senior Director Tomlinson]
Yeah I'll just note that this is one of the elements that have been flagged for proposed first reading review and the compliance review when it goes through with the SEO within the language there's put simply this doesn't conflict one with the other but there's there's got to be a better way to frame it and the compliance review will catch that and I'm sure an amendment will come forward before second reading should this pass first reading.

[Acting Chair]
I have Secretary Leddy next.

[Secretary Leddy]
All right I just want to first express how excited I am to see this at this table. Having gone through all of the old assembly documents and records of resolutions is clear that youth have been very vocal about the need of having a true Youth Council and an advisory committee is a great idea however I think it lacks the ability to have long-term standing within our government and ensure longevity throughout the years. Quickly flipping through the resources at the back of this packet it looks like 2015 is one of the first resolutions coming from youth asking for a Youth Council.

We have been without a Youth Council since the 2023 general election. Even at the point before that Youth Council dissolved we were hearing from citizens we are hearing from youth how important it is that they wanted their voices heard and not just heard through the youth Representative but to have that youth Representative to be able to hear the

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voices across the province of the needs of youth and the desires of youth from all reaches both rural and urban and when I look at this it makes me so excited to finally see those dreams of youth now no longer in the age category getting to see all of that hard labor and foundations that they put in at assembly after assembly at meeting after meeting to have it finally here at this table where we can introduce it at first reading and add it to a law that we will have our youth have their voices heard even more meaningfully and I feel it's kind of special we talk about the importance of our youth we talk about the importance of our elders having this included as an amendment to the Self-Government Act allows this to be held in the same regard we have our elders. Our elders voices matter when we have them for that support and advice. Our youth voices matter too.

They are not just the future they are here right now they are the present and they are dealing with what is happening in our world today. So I'm happy to support this if it needs a seconder I'm happy to second this and I'm excited to see this go through the legislative process to ensure that we are setting up the future for our youth our future youth to show up and be engaged in a way that matters.

[Acting Chair]
Thank you Secretary. Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
Thank you Mr. Chair. I want to preface by saying I am not speaking about not us not having a youth advisory because I think some of the motions there were motions even before 2015 many many years ago I can't remember when but I remember folks at a Lac La Biche Assembly asking for a youth council so it goes back many years I've always been supportive of it. Mr. Chair prior to this I don't believe that there was a motion made in regards to this resolution she said she wanted to second it I know Rebecca read this but I didn't hear a mover or a second so some of the comments made to Bobbi with respect to her speaking against a motion I don't believe is procedurally correct and perhaps I'll wait until the attention is around the table. Are we good?

We know that there's procedural issues we know that we have put a standing item which I I believe is on tomorrow's agenda so Mr. Chair we have other options and that is table this so that it would be spoken about during the time of that standing item because this indeed falls within the realm of those discussions so there are more options available to us as a Métis government to deal with it so that we are doing government in a good way. I hear the points about an advisory council now and I also know the importance about elders. I'm sitting here and I'm saying so why did we not why are we putting our elders council as a regulation why did we not amend the act which is a elders council is a constitutionally recognized body to be put in place.

In my view if any council should have been amending any government act it should have been Kahsketakihk council. Instead we're putting them as a regulation and we're gonna put youth as an amendment. I think we need to stop for a second and say come on let's let's do this right let's do this right because if we're gonna amend our self-government act to put in

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a youth council and we didn't do it for an elders council what is that saying about us and not only that I would not want to see it be a precedent-setting process so when we want to do a harvesters council we amend the act again we want to do a trappers committee let's make it into a council we'll amend the act again any other councils that might come in the future I'm saying we've got to think this through we've got to think this through so that when are we gonna make them into a council that is put in place by regulation and when or do we even need to include them all in a government in an amendment to the self-government act so I caution my colleagues to say and like I said I prefaced it's not it's not about I'm not talking about I don't support a youth council don't get me wrong on that I'm talking about our jobs as as a government to say we need to do it right and like I said if we thought it was the right thing to put Kahsketakihk as a regulation why aren't we even having that discussion about a regulation around youth so I say let's let's let's and I would make that motion that we table this if we have to table this this discussion on the standing item for tomorrow where we talk about legislative changes because I might have to make one to say we take the Kahsketakihk and put that into the act too because to me that's the priority it's constitutionally recognized thank you so much

[Acting Chair]
I would just add that it would be redundant to do that Secretary Collins because it already is in a self-government act section government act and 71 yeah in a self-government act the the elder council of elders is already in the self-government act when you're creating a regulation for for the self-government act the act is the act and then you create a regulation the terms of reference to govern that and yeah yeah and it and I believe it it's that hope that way

[Interim Senior Executive Officer Quan-Watson]
I have no views or comment on the substance of it but I've put a lot of bills through a lot of legislatures and a lot of parliaments and what I'll say all these comments are excellent second reading comments it I'll just say procedurally everything that has been said in a sense accepts that first reading is done not formally but except because these are the comments you do at second reading all first reading ever does in any legislature or Parliament is to say to that house or that council we need to have a conversation about this and then second reading says what anybody wants to say about it and they can say it's the worst idea ever they can say it's the best idea ever they can say it may be fixable here there in the other place but it is the permission to talk about it and say whatever you need to say so all I can offer here as an elected paid staff member is that you are doing exactly what should be done after first reading and it's exactly the conversations that probably need to happen in any bill and so what I would say is effectively you've really accepted first reading not for the record not officially but you've launched into the debate that is second reading which means first readings happen and all these things need to be said and tested and pursued and whichever way you feel proper it's just first reading is simply the notice it's on the menu to be talked about and have anything said about it that needs to be said about it right and amendments along the way as needed as identified with the various mechanisms

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and at any point it could fail we've we've seen it in the things that we've been trying to push through part or get pushed through Parliament so just

[Acting Chair]
hank you Daniel for that for that input. Secretary Lavallee?

[Secretary Lavallee]
yeah I was also going to say that that like because technically hasn't even gone through citizen consultation which are the voices that matter when it comes to bills and amendments but a lot of the comments like I'm just my job at this table is to be a legislator and to represent me to youth voices at this table and I'm doing that by bringing forward this amendment and this legislation because it's ensuring that me to youth voices are represented in our government and when it comes to your suggestion of having just an Advisory Council I'm telling you now I have heard youth time and time again say no and the reason is because how the Youth Council before was an Advisory Council every four years that Council will be null and void with elections so you're saying we have to fight every single election to have a Youth Council and I'm gonna tell you now we're not gonna have citizens councils that are gonna want one because there's always priorities that are more important than youth which is why we had advocated for youth voices to be at the table so there's one person here advocating for that to be a number one priority yeah and I'm gonna tell you now like we had advocated for an elected Youth Council but we were we weren't given that they said no you're not gonna have an elected Youth Council you'll just have one voice and that's the reality of being a youth in governance spaces and like it happens time and time again this is one surefire way to ensure that youth can be within our government and that they they will be listening and helping with all of the important decisions that are going to affect them down the road and yeah like you were you were saying that like the Elders Council isn't in the Self-Government Act it is which is why I thought we give the same grace to our elders we should give the same grace to our youth because they're just as important when it comes to their point of views being in this government we intergenerational knowledge this is a good way to have that to hold our youth and our elders at the same space as well so they can learn from each other as well but yeah like I like I think like when it comes to this this is just a first reading and like Daniel said this is a notice because if you guys really want to hear what people have to say and do our jobs as legislators and elected officials we need to have this be consultation from our citizens and then we make a decision and we make the edits and we figure out the way forward because I mean you don't have to believe me when I say I talk to youth but if we have a survey out there for them to actually talk about this specific amendment then we'll know if people hate it they hate it if they don't like it

[Acting Chair]
well we'll see so Secretary Lavallee you brought this forward you put it to the floor and I assume you wish to move this and I know that there was a seconder on this side I think it's their seconder okay Secretary Aura Leddy. Representative Moore?

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[Representative Cindy Moore]
more thank you my hitting in the rock there thank you I think Secretary Lavallee for all her hard work well done I think that a youth council is definitely a priority I have no problem with it but I do have some questions that perhaps during second reading we might have some answers to for example would it be faster or more expedient to and cost-effective to use use the self government act to in order to strike up an advisory council youth Advisory Council and then in the future make sure that we do add it to our self government act to ensure that it's always going to be there that they are part of our government it's just one question I would like answered and then also I noticed in your cost analysis less than $20,000 for one year of your council up and running I worry that that's not enough money for you to run that council effectively impactfully and making sure that our youth get enough money so we might want to revisit that to see if there's other costs that might be incurred to ensure that you're not getting shortchanged on that and once again great job like we definitely do need this I don't think anybody's arguing that point it's just what's the fastest way to get this up and running is my question.

[Acting Chair]
Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Thank you I just want to begin my my comment with clarifying I think that there was some mischaracterization of my earlier earlier comments I was not speaking against having a youth Advisory Council I was questioning whether that that was the most prudent and efficient way to go about establishing one I'm absolutely in support of establishing a youth Advisory Council and I think that that was very clearly heard in the Constitution Commission's work and what we've heard from citizens from 2023 to this point so that wasn't that wasn't actually what I was I was saying I do have some questions about the act itself and if and if those comments are better served at second reading then I will definitely bring them forward. A note first to the comments about the Kahsketakihk Council being or the as it's noted in the Self-Government Act the elders and knowledge keepers there's two clauses one of those clauses has two sub clauses in the Self-Government Act we're proposing three pages of amendment to the Self-Government Act to establish this Youth Council so I do think that Secretary Collins comment about the Self-Government Act not addressing the the Elders Council in in a similar respect as as the Youth Council are valid and I think they're worth considering when we have that conversation later so but I will actually move on to the question that I had initially put my mic on for so in section 1 X of the Act youth member it defines that age of not more than 30 does this definition impact section 26 D of the Self-Government Act which states that the provincial youth Representative must be 20 years or younger and then I do have another another question after that

[Acting Chair]
so is there an answer I I'm not going to be able to answer that right away because it's I'm not in self-government so I would look to self-government to provide an answer to that question and while we're doing that I would look for other

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[Representative Paul-Alook]
I could I could go on to the next question that I had as well okay so

[Acting Chair]
section 107 can answer but if you want you know wait maybe he's gonna he's got an answer for both it's up to you you want an answer on your first question

[Representative Paul-Alook]
now either whichever I'm fine with either way put it to you okay I'll just carry on and then maybe Garrett might knock two birds with one stone and with one answer so the section proposed section 106 3 there is a standing invitation to observe or attend meetings of the Citizens Council is this invitation to be considered as attending at their own expense in that sense are not all Métis citizens of the Métis Nation within Alberta invited to attend all public sessions and I I I'm just wondering if if this invitation actually is going to have financial implications if it's actually enshrined in the act I think that that's so those two questions I'll put forward and then I I also have a question about the budget itself that that somebody else had brought up that I that I want to add to so if Garrett wants to maybe answer those and then I'll continue

[Senior Director Tomlinson]
sure I mean you're not gonna find an answer what you're gonna find is that's exactly the point of here your SEO compliance review that question that you've raised will not go to that review and the SEO come back after having reviewed the two sections against each other preliminarily we don't see see any conflicts with this that's how it got to this point over the past year with respect to the budget you'll note in the briefing note that it indicates for this budget year there is no anticipated because you have all of this work to do to get to the point of even appointing folks but that this discussion should be referred into your detailed budget discussions that come early in the the next calendar year as council and it will be your budget decisions that drive a lot of the decisions operationally around this youth council if it's a standing invitation the same as any other citizen has to attend council that will be because Citizens Council has not allocated any budget for that attendance at council and that's the best option that they could put forward and if it's Citizens Council says well we can have one person from the Youth Council attend each council meeting then that can be costed out as part of that detailed exercise which I know our interim SEO is looking forward to putting some process together for you folks but again that's the discussion for operationalization we've given you a very minimal number that this is the absolute minimum it could cost in your budget cycle if it were to be legislated this way but your budget discussions in your budget decisions can inform how big how small how long how short this body gets but that's the discussion that then happens in January February after we've made decisions to bring this forward

[Representative Paul-Alook]
okay so then your answer is essentially yes 103 or sorry 1063 has the potential for financial implications if that invitation is is included in this as an amendment to the self-government act

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[Senior Director Tomlinson]
to be clear my answer is it has budget implications dependent upon the budget decisions of council I may have no budget implication if you decide that there is no budget for that for the Youth Council council can say look when you guys come it's on you or not because we're not allocating budget to it right so that decision is a separate decision that goes into those budgetary decisions that you'll make earlier next year not within the amendment to the act itself

[Representative Paul-Alook]
okay thank you and then moving on to the to the actual budget itself I think it was appendix oh it's not labeled in here but it's it's included in in the motion I thought it was an appendix but there is a budget that was included I will discuss Colin to look to the the second email that I forwarded to him so just some just some questions about I understand that you have said that this is the absolute minimum previously when we have looked at cost analysis for establishing any type of Advisory Council we have and which we've done a couple of times over the the course of the last two years usually that that when that motion comes forward it follows with the cost analysis just for comparison or a reference on the screen you'll see the financial cost analysis for a Health Advisory Council and the basis for that one was actually the c92 Advisory Council which consists of six members similar to the the proposal for the Youth Council and the budget for that was a hundred and sixty seven thousand and five hundred per year to to operate an Advisory Council of six members so I'm just just bringing that forward that that I think there's clearly a lot of costs that haven't been considered in this $18,000 budget if if the budget that was brought forward for a similar Advisory Council and Colin if you can kind of flip through it it talks about having yeah

[Acting Chair]
yeah so I understand the questions and they're very valid right but again we've we've had numerous questions come forward to this level like in this in the same vein that have all been answered the same way this is a very good discussion to be having in our second reading right now we're talking are we even going to be able to adopt this bill for consideration in the process to become an amendment to the Self-Government Act we don't even have technically we don't even have a bill to be or like a piece of legislation we're really discussing because we haven't even adopted anything so so a lot of the questions you have are really can't be answered until we know we actually have a bill and then there's work to be done because this isn't the first the last piece sorry this is the first step right so there's a whole bunch of work still to come around answering those very questions that are important to understand right from a decision-making standpoint this table has a responsibility and you're all acutely aware of that and so I think that's what we're talking about and I'm just trying to keep us as my job is to try to keep us on track and the on track is are we going to adopt this bill for first reading and move it into the next steps and according with the motion that's been presented and is on the floor that is posted a public registry for citizen consultation for no less than 30 days prior to the bill being returned to this council for consideration on second reading and there's also a compliance review process that happens so all of the things that we've talked to many of the again very valid concerns go

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through that process right so the discussion today is are we going to pass this through first reading and

[Representative Paul-Alook]
and I actually asked a question regarding the budget like if if there were items that weren't yet considered or I mean if if that's typically the process that that that this would be a second reading that first reading comes and and it's just a draft budget and that gets built up as the readings go forward then then you're welcome to clarify that and and we can move on but I'm I'm not speaking for or against I'm asking a question about the information that was put forward so that I can make an informed decision in support or against and I don't think that that's that that's out of order that's it's out of scope for the conversation

[Acting Chair]
and I understand again but we do have another like there's other processes to go through to a very valid concern that needs to be able to to to be more fruitfully provided right given what's here today is the actual motion on the floor is are we are we willing to adopt this and I understand what you're saying is that the concerns you're presenting are in relation to your willingness to support the bill as is presented right and and because you have valid concerns and that's fair so then it would go to a vote and you would say no and and we can we will have the unofficial transcription of everything you provided that goes to is it there as a record of sorts so that people could see what you were saying and there's and but we're really trying to just talk about whether or not this is something we want to do and

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I know presidents had her mic so can you clarify then for me that at second reading there will be a more fulsome detailed budget that would come forward is that what you're is that what you're saying that's essentially what my question is asking that's fair

[Acting Chair]
yeah and I'll pass it to Daniel to address the conversation that we're having

[Interim Senior Executive Officer Quan-Watson]
this is a purely procedural question many people have asked many questions first reading is only ever about one thing should we talk about this full stop it's not about anything else so yeah if somebody were to ask a question about the bill today the reality is there's a completely empty drawer where there is no bill so no question can be answered about it until the council accepts that there is a bill in that drawer so all first reading ever does procedurally is to say there is a bill in the drawer and we're going to talk about that bill so what I would say is the many questions that many people have raised which you know for what it's worth I think are really good questions you're gonna have to debate those all you're saying today is yeah we need to talk about it but you cannot answer a question about a bill that does not exist and until first reading says the bill exists you can't even answer most of these questions because you're asking you compare it to an empty drawer you need to put something in the door and the only thing that first reading will do is put it in the drawer and then you got to do a million things and you could ask about budgets you could

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ask about whatever but it is impossible to do that procedurally until the bill is in the drawer and so the only question today is is there a bill in the drawer that we can talk about second reading and all those processes it goes deep it goes long it goes all sorts of places but you can't answer any question about something that technically doesn't exist and so the only thing the first reading would do would be to say it technically exists and now let's go have a conversation but until then there's nothing to talk about thank you

[Representative Paul-Alook]
for clarifying I really appreciate you taking the time to explain that further I again the question that I that I was bringing forward was was simply whether or not that would be the budget that would continue or is it expected to actually be a little bit more in-depth in comparison to the other ones we've actually received in the past for similar advisory councils if and that that is going to impact my my support or not support so yeah that's that's why I was bringing it forward just for clarification and and again I actually do believe that a youth council is is important I don't think there's anybody

[Acting Chair]
around this table that doesn't I think in the flurry I may have missed the question being called I know I see yeah, President Sandmaier.

[President Sandmaier]
very quickly that I support moving on and moving on from first reading and and getting to the the work and that needs to go into this bill and letting our citizens also have input in it I think this is really important it's obviously when you look at the package that's been provided it's been very important to our citizens and our youth for many years I also you know just looking at the motion that's in the in the briefing note we passed in in October in June 2025 unanimously and Secretary Rebecca Lavely motioned it and Secretary Eckberg seconded it that we would we would bring for forward an amendment so I think we need to to move forward and get to work on this amendment it's very important that we have our youth engaged and I I would like to move on from this and move past this first reading so just thinking about the

[Acting Chair]
conversations around the table there's an obvious lack of consensus would you recommend that we move to a vote and and just thinking about our minutes a recorded vote it's the aperture of consent I mean I can I have to check for consensus yeah test for consensus with the question called so I would look for opposition to the motion that was presented by Secretary Lavalle seconded by Secretary Leddy yes Representative Ward has his mic on Mr. Chair there were

[Secretary Collins]
people who had their mics on and there there's hand hands there you heard question all right but she yelled it out it was not by due process and recognition of the chair to speak I ask that because in future does that mean we can just yell out and it gets acknowledged I

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asked that because otherwise some people didn't get an opportunity to speak no that's absolutely

[Acting Chair]
fair I appreciate that thank you we'll go with the list that is currently there and if we can we'll go to test consent to consensus with who we have I don't know because the hands on the screen don't show up in an order I can have a nice little fancy screen here that tells me who's in order I don't know who's there but if we're okay we'll go to Representative Ward first and then we'll go to a Secretary Bramfield and then Representative Dunfield okay Representative Ward.

[Representative Trevor Ward]
Thank you and thank you Rebecca for putting this forward I do believe that we need a youth council and it's very apparent that we need a youth council I'm my question in regards to this so when we this is going to consultation with the citizenship is the proposed budget that is in here will that is that the budget that will be shown to them or is that not part of the package that is being sent to console for consultation I would go look to the

[Acting Chair]
senior director of self-government on that yeah I can speak to that so the

[Senior Director Tomlinson]
process for consultation is to consult on the bill itself so on the legislative amendments the budget is the budget estimate because it was requested in a separate motion by this council to be brought forward it's not a part of the bill itself and it's an estimate because it refers to a future budget year which council has yet to decide so it wouldn't be included in any consultation package that goes out because it's legislative consultation specifically

[Secretary Bramfield]
it's Secretary Bramfield yes thank you for the discussion and for bringing this forward I just would like to note note a few things first of all I understand that you know in in other government processes first reading means it just comes to the table and then maybe we can discuss it at second reading I would prefer if it's at the table and our youth Representative is bringing it forward and if the draft is in our council package for review and discussion that we're actually able to review and discuss it at the table for the Privacy Act I did bring forward a motion to that we draft it and then we brought forward a detailed memo and analysis for council's consideration an opportunity to ask questions or raise concerns prior to drafting and first reading so I understand the process maybe in other governments but as we've been saying this is our Métis government and Kapik Squano I would like to talk about the draft that's in our council package of why we're meeting here today so I do have a few questions it already has been raised because I'm going to be I completely support a youth council and I think everyone at the table does and we need to involve our youth more and empower them and and have opportunities for leadership but I do have some concerns about the current draft that's in our council package I know Secretary blocks already already raised this so the youth member not more than 30 years of age and then the definition and

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then but then section 105 3 says a member seizes upon reaching 30 years of age so to me that reads as a contradiction so if we're going to accept this as it's currently written for first reading and then put it out to our citizens and come back for second reading I would hope that our draft is free of contradictions and our citizens don't have to point that out to us that it's already good to go or something like that secondly 103 through an application process by the youth Representative in collaboration with the director responsible for youth programs so I I don't think that should be the process I think you know we've set out a good process for tech skater geek and we should be following that process for a youth council I use a youth advisory council in that you know we do territories and in short lesson we and we appoint them together but everyone is involved in the process and that it is the elected officials that are doing that work my second my 103.2 it says right something about vice chairs and such other officers my question to Secretary Lavallee would be what other officers would would there be just because obviously in other councils there's secretaries and treasurers but because because this because it is an advisory council it's a youth council but all all councils are an advisory body to citizens council so I guess I just be wondering what other officers there could be 106 the youth council shall at all times work in collaboration with and under the general direction of the youth Representative I'm a bit confused by this sentence I'm the part of under the general direction of the youth Representative that sounds like more of kind of a manager and team relationship and under the under the direction of the youth rep as if the council serving the youth rep which I think the council would be working collaboratively determining goals you know strategic planning that kind of stuff together and then it would actually be the youth rep who takes forward that to the citizens council not the other way around I know Representative Paul a look already talked about the youth council shall have a standing invitation to observe or attend the meetings of council of course every citizen is is welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings but I mean that could have budget implications it's already been discussed before budget is $18,000 I imagine this will cost a lot more for example like you know governance training and strategic planning and the youth council should really be you know we should be providing as many leadership opportunities as we can of course within the budget we can so you know events and conferences and things like that so I don't think $18,000 is is an accurate number and we did just for the record we did ask for a cost analysis in conjunction with a potential bill so I don't actually feel like the cost analysis is really complete and just another point is that I'm gonna bring it up of when we're thinking about budget and budget implications and empowering our youth what are districts getting so I'm just gonna throw that out there because of course that's that's my role as a citizens rep I will also say Bobbi's point about our comprehensive law review I do kind of have a concern that you know I think self the self government act is something that is on the top of the list for our comprehensive law review and administration of identified things I know my own district has McMurray which he has identified things in in the law review in the self-government act particularly so you know I would love to do a full review so I do understand Bobbi's point about that there was a few things said to all councils are advisory to the citizens Council of Council is the governing body so I think there was a I think there was something said about how advisory advisory isn't enough well all councils are our advisory to the citizens Council they come to us and we make and you know to represent their interests and we make the decision and

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my final point is that I am I am completely in support of a youth council and that it is actually all of our jobs and and citizen Representatives to represent the interests of their citizens including youth in all ages so it's not just up to one person at this table it's it's all of our jobs and I myself am still a youth member so I do obviously have concerns a lot of questions about how it's currently written council wasn't able to really provide any feedback or or go through a detailed memo before drafting so I do have some concerns about this actually getting this being brought forward for second reading to our citizens I think more work actually needs to be done on it and I would like to hear what others have to say but I I don't want to you know limit ourselves from actually discussing the draft that's in our council package this is what we're here to do

[Acting Chair]
thank you Secretary Bramfield and just note to all who've who've provided their thoughts on on this particular item all of that again is is recorded and transcribed and then noted can be noted by administration and taken back to be able to provide whatever you know feedback that is necessary to be able to answer questions and concerns so I go to Representative Dunfield thank you so

[Representative Dunfield]
much Mr. chair really great discussion thank you Secretary of the valley for bringing this forward I I absolutely agree that you know I remember the time when my daughter sat on the provincial Youth Council and the need for a youth council and you know some of the questions and concerns she brought forward to me about you know some of the processes so I appreciate all of the hard work that's been put into this but I do share a lot of the concerns that have been already raised and you know I don't want to you know keep adding to that but I think there's a couple of really key things that I think are really important to say and I want to say thank you Daniel for your clarification around what first reading means I think that's really important and and and I'm gonna say that in all honesty and and with transparency and accountability that you know your explanation of first reading was actually the first time we've actually had a really clear explanation of what first reading was and I think that you know understanding what first reading is and how we can move forward it was really important but that's not something that this council has ever been provided and I think I needed to make that clear and be open and transparent to all of our citizens and our council that are watching and listening because there has been you know there has been some legislation that had passed where we haven't had a fulsome discussion or had an opportunity to have these kinds of conversations so thank you very much for providing what that means for first reading that being said I do absolutely agree with Secretary Bramfield about how we have not had the opportunity to have some of these discussions especially with with this piece because there are there are some things in here that that do raise concerns for me and and you know one of the you know President Sandmaier said she wants us to go forward and I absolutely understand because I do think a youth council is really key but I want to I do want to raise the concern as well too on 103a one Representative from each territory of the Otipemisiwak Métis government selected through an application process by the youth Representative in collaboration with the director

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responsible for youth programs and services that line really concerns me because I in every other discussions we had and especially around like Kahsketakihk it is the Citizens Council that chooses the Representatives that comes to the table it is not an authority given to one person over the other and and I think it's really important to state that because I you know there was an email that came to us from President Sandmaier May 8th 2025 in regards to the Transparency and Accountability Act where you know there was concern from President Sandmaier about giving unprecedented authority this legislation would give to a particular role and so I raised that concern because I could see that there's unprecedented authority given to the youth Representative and a director in this legislative process that should actually be coming to Citizens Council so the other the other piece to that as well too is you know the clarification on the age that's the one thing that I'm really wanting to understand around 104a that a youth member being a citizen who is 16 years of age and old or older and not more than 30 years of age and I know Secretary Blatz had raised this concern but I don't think a real question was answered the question was answered when Representative Paul-Alook brought it up does that mean that that age that that change in age within this legislation would also change the age for the youth Representative position for elections next year that needs to be really clarified because then if that change in age also changes the age for the youth Representative for the 2027 election that's highly concerning and that that is something that we do need to discuss and then overall I think that I do have concerns about this legislative process I do have concerns about this legislation as it stands right now and I do think there is more opportunity for discussion and I think that as Secretary Collins stated I think we should table it to have more discussion and bring it back with some of those some of those things being clarified and and I like I said Daniel I absolutely understand what you're saying about what first reading means I don't want what my concern is is this go to a vote and it potentially not pass because there is a need for a Youth Council I 100% agree to that but I do think there's a need for making some revisions and changing this as it currently stands then go to first reading so that's just where my my concerns and questions are and I look forward to what everybody else is saying.

[Acting Chair]
Thank You Representative Dunfield. Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
Mr. Chair I'm I know we have this motion on the floor I'm gonna ask the mover and seconder to consider all the comments that were made because we know I have not heard one person that spoke to say they did not want to have a Youth Council there's issues with it the way that it sits and I totally understand you Daniel that you know it can go forward the way that it is but what then what we kill it on second reading to me that's what's the whole purpose of it right so I would I would ask the mover and and the seconder to consider another process where we can address some of these very you know they're very good questions and they're very strong concerns with respect to some of the pieces in in in this in this bill I don't really want to see the bill go to account and lose it and it gets defeated perhaps because then that defeats the whole purpose of us trying to put a put a youth advisory in place consider the fact that we take a put it we we maybe withdraw or table this

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motion have a sober second thought about what it actually reads because when I even when I read it and yes thank you for reminding me that the Kahsketakihk is in the self-government act but what's in that self-government act around the Kahsketakihk is not how this is written we went through many of these points in this act through through council to develop the regulation we didn't there's nothing in there that talks about some of the pieces that are in this and that was my point that I was trying to make I'm really sorry that I wasn't so darn clear but that was where I was trying to go with it is if it needs to be so much in there right at this moment then put it as generally as the Kahsketakihk council and then we do all this wrangling of what we support what we have concerns about budget stuff all of that in a regulation we we did that process with the Kahsketakihk this is almost like we're doing it backwards and I too like many people have some issues with some of the points in here not about not wanting a youth council but about how we're doing the business how we're doing and building this government we can't treat some people this way and treat some people this way that's where I'm trying to go so I beg the indulgence of the mover and and seconder to put some thought into this so we don't we don't kill something that's good but we be able to put our put it aside and have a sober second thought on what needs to be presented that will pass.

Thank you.

[Acting Chair]
I'll go to Secretary Blatz first.

[Secretary Blatz]
Thank you and I think that what our SEO has said is very important here as somebody who has been through numerous bill readings in my past job first reading doesn't talk about the heart of the bill it doesn't talk about the nitty-gritty details of it it's an introduction and then you write down those questions you submit those questions so that then they can be used at second reading and I think that's why it's important to keep that in mind is that you're not supposed to have all the answers or have a final draft in your first reading that's why there's multiple readings for for these things it's so that then you can start creating that as you go and to kill something in the first reading is counterintuitive to the process and that's what the process is as you have these questions you amend things until it gets it right in the second and third reading and so I think that it's troubling to me to hear the conversation around killing a bill when it's brought forward because you disagree with certain parts of it or you have questions that need to be answered because that is what second reading is for it is to get those answers and it's hard when we're talking about people not being treated differently but why is the youth Representative have to work twice as hard to get a counsel then when we were being given an elders counsel that was already written into our Constitution like I just want to make sure that we're we're being even here that we say that youth are precious we say that youth are important we say that youth are sacred and if we believe all of those things then first reading with our questions with our amendments that we want to make and we push it forward is what needs to happen because if we're going to say that we believe in a youth council we say that we are not talking against a youth council then us killing in the first reading because we don't believe in it and we don't believe that

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can change and we don't believe that we can make those amendments right now that's not that's not how this works that you're not supporting youth you're not supporting a youth council if you kill it right off the bat but also we don't need to table it that's what first reading is for we collect that information and we go forward we take all of the feedback and then we turn it into what the second reading is it's not to continuously table things if we don't agree with it right off the bat there's a process for this and that is the process and we need to follow it and I think that with all of the comments that have been heard there's staff in the room that have heard these comments they've documented it and now we can push forward with the second and do a better draft and I think that Secretary Lavalle is doing an incredible job of speaking on behalf of the youth and we have comments and concerns of course as a council and yes of course that is what we are supposed to do but Secretary Lavalle is here to lead the youth and to be that youth voice and I know that we're supposed to all speak on behalf of our citizens here but that is what she's literally here to do and I think she's doing herself a disservice if she doesn't get to see the second reading of this and so I would love if we could move to do our first reading we can take all the feedback that we heard today and we can continue that conversation for the second reading but I also don't think that just because there's criticisms of it that that would mean that would die in the second reading I think that we shouldn't go into anything with the thought that you are going to kill something in the second reading.

Thank you.

[Acting Chair]
President Sandmaier

[President Sandmaier]
Yeah I agree with everything that Secretary Blatz has said and and I just have to say that I really do appreciate you weighing in and giving giving your helping us out with what what is the first reading. I would have to say I know that Representative Dunfield said that we had never heard that before but we actually have. Jason Madden did a full presentation for us a year ago two years ago when we were we had a council meeting in Calgary on the legislative process and what is the first reading what is the second reading etc and we had also talked about it even prior to that with self with self-government I believe with Director Tomlinson.

So I I agree with what you're saying Secretary Blatz and I know that there is a process for this and I think you know going forward with first reading and then getting all the information and as has been highlighted the team is here taking all the notes on the concerns like to see it go through first reading so we can do this get on with the second reading and any amendments any edits and get the citizens input.

Thank you.

[Acting Chair]
Thank you President Sandmaier. I'll take a step back only to say that there was a question post to the mover and a seconder. I'll look to the mover first because if the mover disagrees

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then it doesn't need the seconder to agree or disagree but there was a request to table and she says no just for the record not interested.

Okay so I'll move we have a couple of more speakers hope that we could we can keep moving. So Representative Paul-Alook you're next on my list. Go ahead.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Thank you Chair. I just want to address a couple of the comments that that have been made. Again I really very much appreciate the thorough explanation that you've given.

However the explanation that you provided is based on colonial government of a two-party system where there is debate for and against and it goes back and forth. We operate an indigenous government with consensus based governing. Part of part of the foundation of that is collaboration.

It's a deliberation. It's asking questions of each other. It's putting the nation first.

It's considering our citizens, our nation and how all of that might be impacted. The questions that have been raised today are very much all encompassed in that. In all of the things that I just just mentioned.

How it's going to affect our budget, our nation, our future. Absolutely I agree with Secretary Blatz that the youth are I can't remember the exact words to use but cherished or whatever. The youth are our future and absolutely they deserve a voice in our government.

I think what Secretary Collins had brought forward was a potential solution for this to actually incorporate kapikiskwanaw as Secretary Bramfield had had brought forward and and actually take the opportunity as an indigenous government that's based on consensus that prioritizes discussion and deliberation to actually come forward with with a draft that we can present to our citizens because essentially after this is passed it goes to 30 days citizen engagement now according to our self-government act and then comes back for second reading so what we're essentially saying is we're gonna put a draft forward that has some holes in it like that or or that potentially has some holes in it that that some people have have raised concerns about and ask questions that unfortunately we don't have any answers to at this point because it's not in the drawer but we're putting that forward to our citizens now to consult on a half-baked loaf of bread you know what I mean like we're with and and I think that it I don't know if that is necessarily in keeping with good governance as a Métis government it fits with what you're talking about with colonial government and what the the typical process is for first reading but if you actually take it out and step back and look into context with how our government runs and the values that it's in foundations that it's built on it it actually makes far more good governance sense to actually take a step back take those and and I'm not saying scrap the bill I'm saying take a second look at it and in the meantime we could pass a motion through under self government act section 68 to actually establish a youth council we can do that today we could pass a motion today that that isn't amending the self-government act and that still establishes a youth council just the

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same the same and results a different path and it provides our government an opportunity to take this bill back and fully look at it in using that collaborative approach that is the foundation of our consensus-based government and I and I think that that's to me that's kind of a compromise or a solution that ensures we're practicing good government good Métis governance principles and we're establishing a youth council today that's where I was going with my very first opening comment

[Acting Chair]
thank you thank you Secretary Leddy

[Secretary Leddy]
I first want to say that like the concerns being said aren't falling on deaf ears they they're as has been said they're they're valid questions and things that need answers but I also sit here and I'm just utterly disappointed I have had the privilege of being in spaces as a youth and being loud and proud and probably a little annoying on the side but the thing I've heard over and over again is we support the youth we want the youth and it's always followed with a but I can't support this on this one little thing I have this small procedural thing that I'm that I'm going to use right now and it it's disappointing to see that continue at this moment we're at first reading I want all of the comments I want all the concerns and I want all of the answers which happens in that second reading and in that second reading we can change and form this into being a vision that truly supports and lifts our Métis youth in a way that is meaningful and matters and hears them we can do that all together and keep that value of we will talk a value that in our Constitution says that our government will be responsive to the ambitions and needs of our citizens the ambitions and needs of our Métis youth is right in our face it's they've said it how many times and how many times do we have to hear it before we listen to it so I really urge this council to not slap youth in the face once again to say you matter you matter you matter and then turn around and not actually follow through right now we can take the first of many many steps to getting to a youth council a youth council that arguably is in other Métis governments we are one of the few that don't have one let's just take this first step and then we can have these long discussions let's work through the legislation let's get the consultation from our people I am sure our youth and our people will read what is here in that 30 days consultation and give us ideas that we haven't even fathomed but we can't do that if we're gonna just pause right here and say no we're not even going to move forward through a process a process that is set out in our self-government

[Acting Chair]
act thank you I'm going to go to a second no she's good okay so I have Secretary Bramfield online go ahead

[Secretary Bramfield]
thank you yeah I just want to make it clear again and I don't think anyone at the table is dismissing the importance of a youth council or or really against this being brought forward for first or second reading I do have concerns about you know there is a contradictory 29 versus 30 in this draft I think it should be fixed before it goes out to citizens for consulting so

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they don't have to point it out to us I think a draft should be you know it should be a little bit more clear I do have concerns about that the youth counts right now that it reads that the youth council shall at all times work in collaboration with and under the general direction of the youth Representative those are those are legitimate concerns and I know you know you know in a party system for bills brought forward to first reading I mean they typically work on it together within other ministries or with their with their other party members and whatever else but this is the first time we're seeing it and able to discuss it which is why I did want to discuss some of it before we do give it out to and before we do bring it forward to citizens for their feedback because council hasn't have an opportunity to to review it which we have for other pieces of legislation so I mean I'm not I don't think anyone's against a youth council I think everyone wants a youth council I do have concerns in this first reading if but if if people want if they want they're gonna stay there and we're just gonna move forth it and the citizens can point that out to us that's okay but just as it reads right now I do have concerns with how it's written and I think that we should be there shouldn't be a contradiction of ages when we give it out to citizens it should be clear but I'm not going to I'm not gonna vote against having a youth council I just think there's questions but I don't think anyone's gonna vote and we can we can figure it out we can hear from the citizens and we can we can work on it more but you know I just think there's some contradictions in the actual draft bill that's gonna go out to our citizens that we should fix I think

[Acting Chair]
Secretary Bramfield I have a Secretary Collins

[Secretary Collins]
I too am saddened that we can't come to any kind of compromise the way that it's written is gonna go out reflective of this government if there's comfort if there's contradictions in there it's reflective of us that's why I suggested that we put this on hold for a minute have a look and fix what needs to be fixed in there before we send it out to our citizens it's reflective of all of us around this table and right now the way that there there are some pieces in there that and I understand first reading I understand all of that stuff but as a person sitting around this table and we're going to be amending an act an existing act that we already heard needs more than just this amendment why don't we do it so that it's a good piece of legislation that we're putting out there why don't we do a little bit more work now that you've heard some concerns a lot of concerns why don't we make those amendments look at how long we have had the privacy bill before us we've had lots of rounds and discussion just on what was in the bill and this one there's a lot of concerns around it we sent that one back how many times why can't we do that with this one and say you've heard many concerns send it back do a little bit more work to it before it comes and we haven't even passed the privacy bill one yet why can't we do that something so that like like Brooke says there's contradictions in there why should I I don't feel comfortable to sit here and say this this bill that has contradictions in it is going to be the best foot forward that we could put out there that's not very reflective of certainly I'll speak for myself how I can catch things on minutes like that that I didn't catch anything in this bill so those kinds of

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things those pieces yeah I'm concerned about and yeah I think about it because the way that it's currently written and some of the concerns that were raised can we not fix those before we pass a first reading so that we are passing something that we can go out to our citizens and say you know what I voted in favor of this because of this this and this as opposed to citizens Representatives going out and meeting with their citizens to say I but I can't support this because of this this and this I would be very uncomfortable to go back to our citizens and do something like that that it got past here and then I go up to the community say I can't support it because of this this and this so even passing the first the first reading going into the next process I'm already making my mind go there I'm gonna have a really difficult time to say it go we pass it we pass the bill but I don't support a lot of the things that are in it that's not a very good they're gonna ask me what are you doing there aren't you doing your job properly at the table when it's when it's happening so those pieces concern me too and I and and again I say let's just take a moment maybe we need to take five Mr. Chair and and take a moment to say what's the best way to proceed here so that it reflects a Metis government it reflects that we were trying to work in a consensus and it reflects in a good way because you heard everybody supports a youth council that difficulty is the process the procedure and the exact stuff that are written in this let's not let that stump us if we really believe that youth need to be at this table then let's do it right in the first place and with that Mr. chair if you could take five minutes and maybe we need to go get fresh air or something I don't know but

[Acting Chair]
this is going around in circles I'll go to Representative Ward first he was very patient

[Representative Ward]
Thank you I think that we have to I think this shows a lack of our policies and procedures and and the direction in which we want to carry bills forward either as a colonial government or as a Metis government I just don't think we are maybe grasping what that looks like our citizens are smart so if we're bringing something forward that has they're gonna throw poke holes in I have to do that with the Blackfoot Confederacy it is not fun when you're trying to defend an action right good or bad so all of a sudden we are going to have citizens coming up to us and asking these questions why why didn't you do it this way why didn't you do it that way right if we see the problems I think we should be filling those holes to some degree when I think of when I was growing up and we were sitting around kitchen tables because that's how we made decisions do it right the first time with something that came out of it all of my mom my dad my Grandparents my motion like hookah right don't do it twice because you're making twice as much work I think I'd like Casey said I think we need to take five minutes if we could at all possible so that we can reflect on who we are as people but also who we are representing right and to make sure that we are moving forward in a good way so that we aren't having to answer questions that are unnecessarily asked

[Acting Chair]
it's two requests where five minutes I break and I would look to the president just given I would look back to Secretary Collins point make she she actually said that we're just keep

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talking about the same things over and over so I just want to look to the president as the arbitrary consensus for this council as is the role set out in our legislation as to her thoughts on the current proceedings

[President Sandmaier]
yeah I think I think we can take a five minute break but I just want to say this again is that we do have a process for for the legislation and how how it moves how it moves forward it's not a broad process it's something that we do need to do work on we did have a presentation by our legal Jason Madden a couple years ago on the legislative legislative process council had questions and concerns there was concerns that I had with with the process and something that we do need to work on we've talked about it at that several meetings the last few months and it is something that we are going to work further on on of the legislative piece but there is something already set out in the Constitution and in the Self-Government Act as to first reading second reading etc I think we can take five minutes

[Acting Chair]
okay so as requested we'll take a five-minute break so recess till what's like 440 let's do 445 it's a nice round number so it's a little bit longer than five it is 453

[Acting Chair]
and I did jot down a bit of a speaking list just to kind of because mics were turned off and things like that so I'll start with Representative Dunfield and then I had Secretary Blatz and then second or sorry no it was Secretary Wolfe that's my list Representative Dunfield and then Secretary Blatz so Secretary Sarah Wolfe please go ahead if you could add my name to that and then I

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
can I just put my light on so thank you so much before I speak I know our elder here wishes to make some comments so I'll just give her the mic anytime

[Elder Dianne Ludwig]
absolutely please go ahead it's been a pleasure sitting here and being with everybody I truly believe when we started talking about the young people elders that some respect was lost the thing we must never forget is to have that respect Mr. chair you need to learn respect you need to learn patience when these women are talking and they're sitting around the table I think that you should stop and listen to them you came from a woman and I don't think you talk to that woman like that I think that the young people should be giving given a lot of priority they're your next leaders they are the elders we have lots to give and our life is short it's not a long long time and you're gonna say well I'm gonna live this long because you're not the boss and I worked in a school system for 31 years I have a lot of kids that come up to me and tell me that they still love me they love me they respect me because I was the one that sat there and listened to them and this is going third generation already and they still remember me when you want to work with people you can't just say oh well cut it off you can't do that I'm sorry and Rebecca I have a lot of respect for you her and I danced together we played together we sang together she was only five years old Rebecca

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doesn't forget that and if you want them to follow in your footsteps you're gonna have to show them a good path and the soft footsteps but you want them to display for you and you have to do that also and I'm sorry I just couldn't take it anymore because sitting here I seen what was transpiring and it really hurts me that's for so many years. we keep saying we want the youth we want the elders we're here we're here so now. what I feel has to happen is you have to show me or show whatever elder is sitting here what you want to learn you have to listen to the youth sometimes their ideas are a little bit loopy but that's okay you have to listen to them and that's all I have to say thank you for having me here I really appreciate being here with everybody and I still like I still need to know sometimes I talk too much and I still need to know if I have the right to speak the way I do but I don't need anybody's permission either so you asked me to come here to sit here and say prayers I love that I really do but then we have to think of the young people thank you

[Acting Chair]
I want to say thank you sometimes you do need to be grounded and and reminded of humility a normally humble person can sometimes get a little in your correct risk you know the the patience is an issue it's a virtue but it's also an issue so I really truly appreciate you so much and thank you for your words and for grounding me again specifically and also sharing your your wisdom with the table thank you so much I'm going to give you a hug later so Secretary Sarah Wolfe

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
thank you so much and thank you Elder Dianne for sharing your wisdom with us it's so important to keep us grounded as Chair Fetch mentioned a couple of things as a youth myself sitting at this table I wasn't necessarily a part of the youth councils that we had previously but I have constantly heard stories from other youth and people my age who were fighting for youth councils and I know that nobody here at this table is saying we don't want one but the conversation that we are having right now isn't about whether to have a youth council or not I think we're all in agreeance it's about putting this bill into motion so that we can have that conversation about it and right now it feels like this conversation about all the different procedures is being used to really hold up what our youth have been telling us for so long another thing when I read the the bill that's in front of us a couple people had mentioned the contradictions I guess that are within it I don't see any the point about the age not more than 30 years of age is the qualification and reaching 30 years of age is the disqualification they mean the same thing there's no contradiction there another thing I wanted to address is a couple comments made about our process being colonial and when was the last time that we had a government come forward and consult all of their citizens about legislation and actually take all of their recommendations and bring it back together for us to then build a legislation that they truly want I can't remember the last time that happened but that is what we are going to do that when we go through and we pass this first reading and we bring this to our citizens it is our job to talk to our citizens about it encourage them to do the surveys encourage them to really engage with this bill so that we can come back to this table and have that fulsome conversation that reflects our citizens

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wants and our and needs and those citizens include the youth that will then be considered for this Youth Council.

Another thing I don't think we're giving our citizens enough credit Representative Ward said our citizens are smart and they are smart our citizens will understand the process of first reading and second reading most of them know that when we put forward something after it's passed first reading that it's not of that isn't the final legislation it's for them to put in their input and if you don't like something about the legislation that's in it talk to your citizens about it get their comments maybe tell them why you don't necessarily agree with a certain paragraph or section and have that conversation and then take that back and bring it back to second reading so that we can build a bill that reflects all of that so that everybody will then be happy with every single portion of this bill holding it up here because you're worried about some of the wording or something that we're bringing to citizens again I don't think is giving our citizens enough credit and if we're constantly scared about every single bill that comes forward about how our citizens are going to think when we bring something forward we're never going to get anything done we constantly talk about transparency and wanting to hear from our citizens on everything well this is this is the moment this is the chance that we talk with our citizens and we get that engagement but if we don't even put it through first reading we can't get that engagement that is all I have to say and with that Mr. chair I would like to call question please thank you.

[Acting Chair]
Question is called we'll finish off our list of speakers I have a Representative Dunfield you're next.

[Representative Dunfield]
thank you Mr. chair I I really appreciate the conversation and and of course too I do want to say thank you to our elder for her words of wisdom I know you know I I've been I've been there's been times where elders have had to share with me how important it is to listen and learn and I think that's really that's really key I think one of the things that I don't disagree with everybody and I think that's the one thing you know as Secretary Sarah Wolfe stated nobody around the table is saying that we don't want to use counsel we absolutely do but I but I also feel that you know as Secretary Collins stated you know this is a document that's going out to our citizens and it's a reflection of all of us you know there's some clear questions and concerns that have been raised and I kind of feel like I'm going all over the place here but I think I'm going to go back to what Secretary Blatz was saying about you know what first reading is and how we need to we need to follow this process and and these are things I think what the concerning thing for me are not the concerning thing but the thing we need to point out and Secretary Collins stated it is is that we have had multiple different processes when we brought forward legislation you know Secretary Collins talked about the Privacy and Information Act and how that process was done to ensure that we you know we all had a country that we all contributed in and we're part of that you know developing that Privacy Act alongside you know alongside Representative Paul-Alook and and Representative Bramfield and then now we have this that was I am assuming was drafted by self-government alongside you know Secretary Lavallee so we've had multiple

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different processes in drafting a legislation we actually haven't followed a true process or a procedure there's been multiple ways that bills or bills have come to us and legislations have have come to us and I think that's the piece that you know when I'm thinking about what Secretary Blatz was saying that we're struggling with a bit here it's because you know we've had bills that come to us for first reading that you know have been posted online and and then there hasn't been anything more and then all of a sudden we're doing second and third reading there's been no further discussion so I think one of the things that I would like to see and you know I'm really hopeful because as we stated this is not about not supporting a youth council this is about how the bill has been drafted itself and allowing us to be able to you know make the changes to the bill before it goes to first reading because I think once those things have been addressed before it goes to first reading will alleviate a lot of the questions and concerns that have been brought to the table but I also think it will follow a process that we've kind of already started when we were looking at the privacy the the Privacy Act where we actually had engagement from the council in developing that process this one we haven't and I think that's where there's a lot of questions and concerns that have risen so I understand you know I understand there's there's been some discussion and I think I think it's really important for us as Secretary Collins stated that you know we we put forward something that I think our citizens would support they may have questions on but I would be uncomfortable putting forward it this this bill as it stands right now I'm not gonna vote against it let me be clear because I do think we need a youth council but I also think that we need to be very cognizant of the fact that we have to put forward something that as a citizens council as a whole that we that we feel comfortable with and that yes there may be questions from our citizens but that we are all in agreement on because I think right around the table right now you know there's absolute 100% agreement that we all want us that we all want a youth council I don't think there's agreement about the bill itself and certain things that need to be fixed before we go to first reading and and I think that's where I want to come back to you know Daniel you said you know second reading and this is where you know I I will I will say when it's come back for second reading I don't recall any bill or legislation where we've actually had further discussion prior to second reading it came back for second reading and that was it so I think that this is really important for us to think about the process and procedures that we want to follow and maybe you know notes for our team in the background that are that are listening to this about how we're going to be doing bills in the future but right now there's like I said there's multiple different bills that have come forward in multiple different ways this is a bill where we haven't had a chance to review beforehand and I think that's one of the things that we're struggling with here because we've had had a chance to review some other bills that have come forward lately so I just want to say that I'm not again not not absolutely not what I absolutely want to support a youth a youth council I just am very uncomfortable with this legislation as it is right now in going to first reading.

[Acting Chair]
Thank You Representative Dunfield. Secretary Blatz.

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[Secretary Blatz]
And I think that there's a way to be mindful about even how we do the consultation process between first and second reading that can encompass the the issues that we're hearing around the table as well I think that there's a way that there could be a list done up of all of the the conversation that we've had as Representatives about this bill and that way when we're going to consultation and we're bringing this forward to the citizens they know what the conversation was around the table and I think that that's important to making sure that we've that the people around the the table that have felt like they they have an issue with how first reading is being done they can hear that feedback and they can also provide their feedback on that as well so I think that it is important to capture everything that was heard today but that's the knowledge that we can bring into the consultation process that we can take it into second reading alongside the changes that will be made and I just I did want to address to I think this is the third time now that I've heard someone say to me that talking about being too colonial or that the government I was from was a colonial government and I find I find that language to be very difficult for me to hear time and time again I think I've been trying to share my knowledge of where I come from in my experience as being in government especially when we do have colonial features to this government such as first and second and third readings to bills I am just providing that information about how that works and and as noted there's inconsistencies with how we have done this in the past and I think that the sooner that we we start working in a proper process to this the better that way it's a smoother process going forward but I don't think that it is fair or respectful to say to somebody at the table that their experience is too colonial or that something that I'm speaking about is colonial when I'm an indigenous person at this table too I'm a Métis person at this table too and I just want to make that clear because like I said I've heard this a few times now and I respect everybody at this table as being a Métis person and your experiences are all valid and I would never call any of you too colonial so thank you.

[Acting Chair]
Thank you and Representative Paul-Alook.

[Representative Paul-Alook]
Thank you. A few things so I want to I guess I I want to apologize for anybody who may have been inadvertently offended by any of the comments that were made I really hope that that everybody here can kind of understand that we're here discussing legislation a process all of the things that governance requires and that at no point any comments are meant to be personally reflective of any one individual when yeah I'll leave that at that I apologize if there was offense taken to to any of the comments that I made I can absolutely say without a doubt that none of my comments were directed at you Secretary Blatz so I don't know if that comment was regarding any of the things that I said but I apologize if you if you took offense that wasn't intended and they weren't directed at you.

I want to start by by something that that I have challenged myself with and that I think the work of this government needs to do as well in when our Constitution was being built we we basically said that we need to look both backwards and forwards and this is language that I'm taking straight out of our our own Constitution Commission work that our

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government should reflect our history as well as our hopes and dreams and our aspirations and I think that when we look backwards we see that and we and we see this in our Constitution and in our self-government act that our government is a consensus-based government because that is what is valued in Métis culture not it wasn't born in 2023 or 2022 when this was ratified the Constitution was birthed out of 250 years of nationhood that placed value on certain principles and and processes of governing our nation the nation came first the principles came first the Constitution came in 2022 and then and then enacted in 2023 when we when we all came to office I think that when we speak about colonial governments or Métis governments when we speak about Métis governments I'm I'm speaking about what the 250 years of foundation that led us up to this moment and and our people valued discussion deliberation questions and and consensus not consensus without those things consensus after those things a vote a vote is the last resort it's not when you can't find when you can't find consensus or you don't get what you want call a vote that's not what our Constitution was built on that's not what our nation values and and it's written like that in our Constitution it wouldn't be consensus first and then if you can't go to consensus then go to a majority vote it's written intentionally that way when we had the Constitution Commission in front of us and I asked them and in my naivety I asked them tell me what's specifically Métis in our Constitution and I was looking for something tangible and and I got an answer that has sent me on months of a journey trying to to actually figure out what what what that answer meant but the answer was everything everything every clause every order everything about that Constitution was based on 250 years of Métis nationhood because the nation came before our government and then two years of citizen engagement on top of that and so I I'm what I'm I'm going to bring forward is I don't I don't think today's discussion has to be in either or and in they didn't and that was had had I had the opportunity to finish my entire comment my initial opening comment that's where it was the exact direction it was headed in is this doesn't have to be in either or conversation we can under section 68 of the Self-Government Act establish a Youth Council today then for every all the people around council that have concerns or questions around how this act this proposed act could be further developed we could make a motion that that goes back for for further review and a second draft comes back at a later date to to be presented either for first reading or inclusion in a legislative review whichever comes first but I I think that we need to be very careful and mindful when we just say we're gonna take it to a vote because we're not getting the answer that that we want that's not when when those comments are made about Métis governance versus colonial government that's where they're coming from 250 years of established nationhood that led us to today and and it's it's our responsibility to not just we say all the time we're an infant government this is we're in an infant vehicle for an infant institution but we have centuries of nationhood that our that that have pushed us forward and and there's been continuity over those centuries of certain principles and those are the things that made it into the Constitution so I'm starting to I'm starting to understand that that answer that I that I was wondering if it was evasive or if it was or if I'm starting to understand it because I've challenged myself to actually do the work and look backwards at the same time as looking forwards and and I would and I and I just wanted to bring for bring forward that that's kind of where where I'm coming from in the comments that I'm making it's not to pick at anybody it's to ensure that I'm coming here

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and that we're all participating in governance that's consistent not just with our Constitution our ideas of what good governance is because what we know from from what we've seen in municipal provincial federal government but good governance in keeping with 250 years of nationhood because govern the nation came before first and it's recognized as coming first even in even in our Constitution look at our Constitution it starts with the nation first then after talking about the nation our history our citizens our Bill of Rights then it talks about our government the nation first the government after then the nationhood and the principles that we value as Métis people that's the foundation the government is the vehicle for it and so I would caution calling a majority vote at this point what I'd like to do rather is bring forward a friendly amendment that that I think accomplishes both that it satisfies all the everything that has been brought forward at the table and it would read that be it resolved by the Citizens Council that bill 2026 dash XX and an act to amend the Self-Government Act is hereby directed for further to administration for further edits and review and to be brought back at either for consideration at a future Citizens Council meeting for either for first reading or for consideration with in a comprehensive legal review whichever comes first and be it further resolved that according to section 68 of the Self-Government Act that a youth Advisory Council be established as an Advisory Council to Citizens Council and Cabinet of the Otipemisiwak Métis government and there is a second requirement about accountability and I'm not sure though the legal is here could that can maybe elaborate a little bit on that second piece of what's required for the accountability piece but I I want to strongly suggest that the mover in the seconder consider this friendly amendment because it's been positioned by several people that anybody asking questions is against youth are youth having a voice that's not the case there is no there there is a solution and it this doesn't have to be an either-or discussion we could actually pass a motion to establish the Youth Council right now and we can take this piece of legislation back put the work into it so that everybody's comfortable with what it looks like to go to first reading and and be viewed by our citizens and it to me that's a win-win like and it's and it's what consensus-based government is based on it's what it's what our nation prioritizes having discussions figuring out solutions we've heard time and time again that that Métis people are the compromisers Métis people are the ones that come with the solutions we've heard it at the UN table where our delegates go and and there's discourse and and disagreement and it's sometimes our delegates who actually come forward and say hey here's a compromise here's a solution that that works for both I want to challenge us to actually consider that that compromise because I think there is a way to I think there's a way to create both end results through this friendly amendment.

[Acting Chair]
Fair I would suggest that isn't really a friendly amendment is actually changes the intended outcome completely so what I would say is you have the the motion to adopt the bill for first reading and pending the decision of this council should it not go forward right then there's that that motion you presented as you presented it could be put forward instead so it's it's not really amending the substance of the motion it's presenting a new outcome completely because never once is there a contemplation for the establishment of the the

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Advisory Council yeah yeah I just I go back to you Secretary just go ahead, Representative Paul-Alook.

[Secretary Lavallee]
I thought you said I just asked yeah

[Acting Chair]
well just a second Secretary Lavallee we'll just go back because we're kind of

[Representative Paul-Alook]
okay talking about what you which before so I'm just wondering then is there I guess would the request be then rather that the mover consider an alternative motion or how do you do that I'm moving a seconder right

[Acting Chair]
so so we'd have to resolve that first and then we could move to a different motion

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I just think the reason that I brought forward the friendly amendment is is I would like to avoid pushing this to a vote in creating further division when there's no need for it because everybody's actually in support of the end result establishing a youth council that's that's that's kind of the reason and I think that forcing it to a vote has the potential to increase that unnecessary division sorry

[Acting Chair]
just consulting with our legal counsel to make sure we're doing things on in the right way in a good way.

We're working on a possible solution to the issue sorry do you want to do you want to take five and get up walk around are you happy to sit here and wait five is good okay so come back and I know I've just did this sounds harsh 535

we'll give you seven minutes the process that we use and and the legislation that says we will seek to come to consensus and where we can't reach consensus then it would go to a vote trying to reach consensus so let it go a little bit longer when need to say also that it is six zero one six o'clock I probably started talking so we'll do six o'clock calling back to order so we had a friendly amendment proposed and we did work on some language so just in a process will go to the language that was provided or that we worked on to try to come to some some place on that first proposed friendly amendment so that read to be it resolved by the Citizens Council that bill XX an act to amend the self-government act is hereby directed to administration for further edits and review and to be brought back for consideration at a future Citizens Council meeting sounds correct Representative Paul-Alook,

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[Representative Paul-Alook]
yes yeah okay so as a friendly amendment I would put it to the mover and the secondary oh sorry go ahead as a second part there will be a follow-up following motion move by myself to establish under section 68 of the self-government act a youth advisory

[Acting Chair]
right yeah as a separate motion okay and so I put it to the mover would you

[Secretary Lavallee]
accept this friendly amendment can I like make a friendly amendment to what

[Acting Chair]
she proposed absolutely sorry Garrett has his hand up do you maybe want to go yeah he can go first okay thank you sorry sorry Secretary Lavallee

[Senior Director Tomlinson]
we will come back I don't want to take the floor from from Secretary Lavallee happy to hear her thoughts I just want to raise that the motion to strike committee now means implementation now there that isn't punctuated in the governance budget that this council has approved up to this point that means we start recruiting as of the effective date of the motion so just so everyone's clear you're incurring an expenditure that hasn't been defined for this budget year that hasn't been budgeted in a budget that you already know is over prescribed so I just want to make really clear that that's flagged and yes you may have thoughts on on that decision too so that subsequent motion may require additional discussion Thank You Mr. Tomlinson

[Acting Chair]
and it was discussed I think there'd be some crafting with second but a goal went back to Secretary Leddy first on the first amendment

[Secretary Lavallee]
yeah like it's based off of Bobbi's two motions that she's bringing forward I would be comfortable with the be it resolved that bill 20 2601 be directed back to administration for revisions based on feedback from this meeting dated July 29 2026 however for the second one to establish a youth advisory council I would want it to read further be it resolved that citizens council establish a youth advisory council pursuant to section 68 of the self-government act that follow the form set out in sections 102 to 106 of bill 20 2601 so sorry if I can just comment

[Representative Paul-Alook]
on that that was initially the intention for the the friendly amendment the language for the friendly amendment that I did put forward but I think there's a legal issue there that the second piece we can't go be it further resolved it actually has to be a second motion that's why no like it would it's two separate motions is what legal has advised so that's that's what that's why the the first motion is as the chair has read and then the second motion would be

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the motion that that I put forward and like he he said that there would be some crafting there regarding a start date or whatever we might put to

[Secretary Lavallee]
Secretary in the valley yeah like I know there were two separate motions and that's why I gave wording for the second motion that we established the youth advisory council pursuant to section 68 of the self-government act that follow the form set out in sections 102 to 106 of bill 20 2601

[Representative Paul-Alook]
so the only the only okay yeah I guess Secretary Collins has put forward a suggestion that that we deal with one motion at a time that we craft the second motion after the first is I I don't know I think that that's the best approach do one and then the other just because and I and I I get just thinking about the second part of the Secretary Lavallee suggestion I got another legal

[Acting Chair]
sincere apologies council just really want to make sure we're doing things in a good way so in the interest of procedural fairness and and the fact that one very similar pieces were put forward and one was separated because of the you know the first one presented was separated because they're they're slightly different like you're you're dealing with the motion ahead and then you're going to a subsequent motion to establish something new right I think it's only fair that it's the same for the Second Amendment and so yeah I would I would put that back to the mover and the presenter of the Second Amendment so

[Secretary Lavallee]
is it going back to this motion that I have here

[Acting Chair]
well it would be there's two hands up as well but we've like it's up to the mover whether or not I wish to move forward with the amendment the first part of your amendment as presented which would be the amendment to the matter at hand which is the motion right and then if you if you were able to get to that point then they could go to a vote on that motion and then there would be a subsequent motion that would be made after the decision that would then be about in relation to establishing some kind of Advisory Committee some subsequent to to the section in the Self-Government Act does that make sense okay

[Secretary Lavallee]
so can I just go back to what this original motion was

[Acting Chair]
if you reject the Friendly Amendment withdraw your suggested amendment would reject the Friendly Amendment that was put forward then we're back to the original that was

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presented I'll do that okay I think President Sandmaier wanted to say something or we go to hands are

[President Sandmaier]
okay well I you know I think the mover of this legislation has said she is not willing to have a Friendly Amendment and I think that we can test for consensus and if not then we'll have to go to a vote because again I'm gonna say speak in favor of of the motion as it stands this is first reading we have a process laid out in our Constitution and in the Self-Government Act that we are going by we have a process that involves our citizens and us around this table where we can we will be engaged in in the process of in second reading to be able to give sending comments make comments may ask for amendments ask and that that is what's laid out and I think that it is obvious that there has been a few different ways that this is you know the process has happened but the basic process is in in the Constitution in the legis in the legislation and our citizens our youth have asked for this on numerous occasions I think we move forward and edit it in second reading

[Acting Chair]
so presidents has asked test for consensus and so I will do that is there anyone in opposition to the motion and the motion to go back to put us back and make sure we know what we're talking about it's on the screen there so it was the original motion that was presented so going back to that is there any opposition to that motion that you see on the screen that is be it resolved and I do believe we need to put a number in there yeah so be it resolved that Citizens Council but the Citizens Council that bill 2026-01 an act to amend the Self-Government Act is hereby introduced and accepted in principle and that the bill be deemed to have been read a first time effective this 29th day of July 2026 be it further resolved that the clerk is hereby directed to cause the bill to be posted to the public registry for citizen consultation for no less than 30 days prior to the bill being returned to this council for consideration on second reading and this was moved by Secretary Lavalle and seconded by Secretary Leddy so is there opposition to that motion as read Mr. Chair yep go ahead Secretary Collins

[Secretary Collins]
there's confusion around this table there's emotion around this table there are thoughts around this table because we've heard it's not that any everybody wants a council I think maybe we could recess this think about it overnight and I see what she she's probably shaking and she's shaking her head here but I that consensus that we put in the Constitution really is foundational and like I said earlier I would have a hard time to go and sell this and yet I'm sitting here saying well I don't want to I don't want to look like I don't support a council that's not even the point at all it's difficult to sit here and not be able to compromise because I I have even questions about the consultation piece we've seen before how the consultation piece goes on the website oh eight people responded that's not even a good consultation piece this is a this is a I want to do it right for the youth for our government for our citizens that have been watching us all afternoon watching us not being able to compromise around something that we all support I'm not sure how else to do that and I and I and I know in processes it could come back on a second reading and not be

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supported at that because of some of the pieces that are in there look at the water bill got killed on the second reading in another government that's not what how I want to see us deal with something so important but yet we're sitting here and we can't come to a common compromise and I don't want to feel like it's something that I have to vote in favor of because I don't want to look like to my citizens that I don't support a youth council when it that's not it at all but yet we're going to be forced to do this is that how we want to be as a government when it's something so important like we heard our elder so important that it's wrapped around our youth and here we are at this place that's not a healthy healthy way to operate on behalf of our citizens my sons are both youth do I want to sit here and say vote against this when yet I can't sell what's in it so I'm really having a difficult time Mr. Chair because if it ends up calling calling to a vote on on the on the bill you know on the first reading I mean sorry then it to me it reflects that we're not working hard enough even on reaching a consensus that's not how a good relationship works and we have to have good relationship among each other in order to make this government work so Mr. Chair I don't know like I said maybe we sleep on it because some of us will pray about it some of us might even you know call some of our own citizens right now just to say what do you think we need some more advice in my in my opinion because we can't compromise and that's to me that's a sad thing when we sit here and we all are supportive of having youth and we can't we can't come to a compromise because of process processes that we haven't consistently followed we all know that had we've done the same thing that we did with some of the other stuff we might not be sitting here today so Mr. Chair I'm gonna put that to you and just say you know what I think I need some more time to think about this and maybe phone you know some of my people and just say because this is this is there they've been watching us all afternoon and if we voted if we vote against it or we very reluctantly not vote against it what does that show I'm I'm hurting inside

[Acting Chair]
thank you so just let you finish that and keeping in mind the words of our elder earlier but I will say that at this point the vote I'm calling for consensus at the direction of the head really can't go back now we're there it's been a long day of discussion I I will say numerous points there's been clarity on the opportunity to change and edit and build as we go and so you know it's really a question of whether or not as has been presented is there consensus I can't recess at this point because we're right in the middle of essentially what is a vote in our process calling for consensus and and yeah I understand and it's been two and a half three hours of conversation on this matter and it was asked for that there's lots of concerns that will be incorporated already already been put forward so and it's just in a simple matter and I mean process some you know it does matter and in the process we called for consensus and and that's where we're at so they can't recess sorry but that's and this well I understand but discussion even at this point where we've had discussion for four hours and and just saying there's a matter of process again I know I know it's what was said but it is a process piece and we're in we've moved there the head of the of the council is asked that we move to the question of consensus and that's where we're at so we can't there's no further discussion we're actually making a decision that's my understanding the process and

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and I appreciate what you said but we're that's where we're at so I would look again to the table for consensus then

[Secretary Collins]
I can't support it Mr. Chair

[Acting Chair]
so we don't have consensus so as is in accordance with our legislation we would go to a vote and from a process standpoint just falling back on the conversation around minutes it would be a recorded vote just if I could make a point before before the vote I mean I kind of really just said like we're in the process yeah no I understand but I I had put forward to move on with the vote as is outlined after consensus if so can't we can't reach consensus then we go to a vote

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I know I just had put forward a motion to follow that and and just wanted to speak to that following motion that that that it that it would stand still like so in the event that this that it in the event that this isn't supported in a vote my my request to bring forward the motion to establish the Youth Council under section 68 I would still like to put that forward in the event that this doesn't pass

[Acting Chair]
oh yeah right so we'll deal with the vote but I'd already talked to you about that right so it's a separate piece there's nothing stopping that from happening so yeah yeah

[Secretary Bramfield]
sorry I know we've been talking and I'm just gonna say this really quickly because I do want us to have consensus and based on all the discussion and and whatever else is that I guess my question would be Secretary Lavallee and Secretary Leddy is that obviously there's been a lot of discussion we all want a Youth Council I you know frankly speaking I obviously support the Youth Council I have concerns about what's in the draft I think it can be made much stronger for it goes out to our citizens and I would ask Mr. Daniel if he could bring us something back within two weeks that you go back and work on Secretary Lavallee if if that's possible because I would just love us to actually move forward move this forward in a good way and have consensus because we all want a Youth Council and like just over like no like not over the age of 30 and then we're no older than the age of 30 but then under and then but then your term ends after you turn 30 that is actually a contradiction because it allows up to 30 but then it also says up to like no and then that when you turn 30 you're done so I guess my final request is based on all the discussion I'm wondering Secretary Lavallee if you can go back and work on it with our new SEO and bring something back and you know it can come forward for first reading

[Acting Chair]
we're going to do a roll call and go to a vote like we're in the middle of the process so I will reread the motion and then I will go around the table to each person and ask if you were for

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for the motion as presented or opposed and then we will record that as has been requested and then we will tell you the results and then record whether or not it's it's successful or failed okay so again be it resolved by Citizens Council that bill 2026-01 an act to amend the Self-Government Act is hereby introduced and accepted in principle and that the bill be deemed to have been read at first a first time effective this 29th day of July 2026 be it further resolved that the clerk is hereby directed to cause the bill to be posted to the public registry for citizen consultation for no less than 30 days prior to the bill being returned to this council for consideration on second reading so I will start on my left and look to Secretary Sarah Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]
I am in favor of this motion favor

[Acting Chair]
thank you. Secretary Leddy?

[Secretary Leddy]
I'm in favor

[Acting Chair]
Thank you Secretary Quintal.

[Secretary Valerie Quintal]
At this time not in favor

[Acting Chair]
Thank you Secretary Lisa Wolfe?

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
I'm in favor of this bill

[Acting Chair]
thank you, Secretary Barry Dibb?

[Secretary Barry Dibb]
At this time I'm going to decline thank you

[Acting Chair]
Thank you Secretary Ward or Representative Ward I'm giving a promotion sorry

[Representative Ward]
I will be voting in favor

[Acting Chair]

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Thank you Representative Schnell

[Representative Catherine Schnell]
At this time I'll be voting against this motion

[Acting Chair]
thank you Representative Campbell?

[Representative Darryl Campbell]
I decline on that. Abstain? abstain? okay I'm voting against it so against it

[Acting Chair]
okay thank you. Representative Paul-Alook

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I'm finding myself in a really unfortunate position that I that I was hoping we wouldn't come to but I think unfortunately I'm going to have to to vote against the the motion as presented

[Acting Chair]
Representative Moore.

[Representative Cindy Moore]
I vote against

[Acting Chair]
Secretary Collins

[Secretary Collins]
very sadly I vote against

[Acting Chair]
Secretary Lavallee

[Secretary Lavallee]
in favor

[Acting Chair]
Secretary Bramfield sorry Mitchell I'm telling you I need

[Secretary Kaila Mitchell]
in favor

[Acting Chair]
thank you I'm gonna get this wrong too now I don't Secretary Lussier

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[Secretary Nelson Lussier]
in favor

[Acting Chair]
Thank you Secretary Blatz

[Secretary Blatz]
in favor

[Acting Chair]
thank you Secretary Chodzicki

[Secretary Joe Chodzicki]
I'm in favor

[Acting Chair]
thank you Secretary Eleberg

[Secretary Jason Ekeberg]
in favor

[Acting Chair]
and online I'll start, Secretary Bramfield.

[Secretary Bramfield]
I vote in favor to not I vote in favor but I have serious concerns about the draft which I will be voting against if they remain the same so in favor in favor so I can go to a second reading but I do want to make it clear that I am NOT in favor of the draft and I've serious concerns

[Acting Chair]
okay thank you I have Representative Dunfield

[Representative Dunfield]
sorry Mr. chair unfortunately I can't support the legislation as it's being proposed right this time so I vote against Representative Trombley in favor thank

[Acting Chair]
you and Representative Chernow

[Representative Jason Chernow]
in favor

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[Acting Chair]
thank you so after a count this resolution or the motion presented passes 13 for 8 against correct okay 13 for 8 against so this passes okay so I'm getting the legal in my ear again as is life I'm going to look again to Secretary Dibb for clarity are you do you support or you opposed or do you abstain sorry Representative thank you go ahead yeah I'm looking to you yeah are you to use well declined so you're opposed yeah okay that's what we had but he just wanted to verify because of the wording so it's it's we've recorded as opposed already so we're on closing remarks and our agenda go ahead Representative Paul-Alook

[Representative Paul-Alook]
I just want to congratulate Secretary Lavallee on on passing her legislation through first reading I it is an accomplishment for her so I congratulate her for that I have to say I'm somewhat disappointed it does deserve a round of applause I have to say that it's it's disappointing the way that we arrived at this and and it's unfortunate that we I think many of us around this table felt our hand force somewhat to make a vote today and felt put on the spot to balance as as it's been said for the last three hours that everybody's in support of establishing a Youth Council but there's you know we're all in elected positions and there's a real concern that voting against is going to negatively impact that though those positions as far as the perception of us not supporting supporting youth so I do want to just end by congratulating Secretary Lavallee and I think that you will see a lot of these concerns come back at second reading and you know I think that yeah I just for forcing our hand and making us kind of weigh those I I don't know if that that doesn't really feel so good at the end of the day but but I think those are things I guess we'll have to work out at second reading okay

[Acting Chair]
thank you go back to our last our second last agenda number third I guess but to the president's closing remarks

[President Sandmaier]
Secretary Lavallee would you like to respond or have say a few words okay all right I'm not going to take up a whole bunch of time because it is 638 and I have closing remarks tomorrow but I just want to say again that this was first reading this is a process that we have clearly laid out in legislation and the Constitution and second reading is all about hearing from our citizens coming back and debating and making sure that any amendments that our citizens would like to see are debated and that is that is the pro that is what we are to do around this table but we are the legislators so this is a draft and again it's um it's our responsibility as citizens Representatives as laid out in the legislation for us to speak to citizens to talk to citizens and hear what hear about what they would like to see added to the legislation taken out of the legislation let it stay the same that's our responsibility to go out and speak to citizens and get their input so with that I think we can I can close that my remarks for now and we'll have some work tomorrow Mr. chair

[Acting Chair]
Secretary Collins.

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[Secretary Collins]
I don't want for the meeting to go any longer but maybe it's something that can be talked about tomorrow is the whole piece about consultation how do we want to do it what are the resources available if we want to have town halls etc with our people can we have that kind of conversation tomorrow because if I want to consult with my people does it end up going to come out of my pocket if I want to have to have a town hall to speak with them or how does that work because this is probably a bill that is going to require some face-to-face so you can provide some clarity and all of that so and I know it's probably not in the budget but I didn't didn't I'm just wanting some direction on it because if there's no money in the budget and it has to come out of my pocket so that I can speak to our citizens then we need to have a look at that so there's a like we stuff to improve an agenda tomorrow so absolutely bring that up and we can because I think there's actually a section of that agenda that is specifically about legislative process or if I recall correctly something to that effect so there's a perfect spot for it but there's a brand new agenda tomorrow that we have to approve like this is this is done this is our last yeah I just wanted to make sure that after you sleep on it bring it back please

[Acting Chair]
Okay the last item on our agenda is we look to our wonderful elder to close us off the day and the good in a good way

[Elder Dianne Ludwig]
thank you I'd like to thank creator for today for giving us the opportunity to meet today with open hearts kindness and love and respect to one another the ability to listen to think of the future for all the people we represent especially the young people we need to model and show love humility acceptance and equality thank you creator please always look after our youth our women and our old people and their sacred spaces respect all of them and always celebrate the children and show them the right way hai hai

[Acting Chair]
so I'd look for a motion to adjourn I see Secretary Leddy so we adjourned till tomorrow I believe the agenda says 930 so see you tomorrow have a good sleep

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