

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting:	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING		
Date of Meeting:	December 9, 2024	Time:	9:00 AM
Minutes Prepared By:	Rachel Ouellette	Location:	Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Participating Board of Directors:

President Walter Mineault
 Vice-President Melanie Allard
 Minister Allan Lavallee
 Minister Carmen Carriere
 Minister Dean Gladue
 Minister Debra Fisher
 Minister Patrick Harriott
 Minister Paulette Flamond
 Minister Raynie Gervais
 Minister Susie Hooper

Participating Staff:

Colette Trudeau, Chief Executive Officer
 John Bieker, Chief Governance Officer
 Sasha Hobbs, Chief Strategy Officer
 Brent Weberg, Chief Operating Officer
 Peter Csicsai, Chief Relations Officer
 Anna Maione, Chief Financial Officer
 Cheryl Churney, Executive Director, People and Culture
 Colleen Hodgson, Executive Director, Citizenship and Children and Families
 Alexander Jacquard, Citizenship Quality Assurance Manager
 Sharlene Wedel, Executive Director Ministry of Education, Early Learning and K-12
 Danielle Sayers Jimeno, Director, Early Years
 Lena Hirst, Child Care Project Lead
 Marc Riddell, Director of Communications
 Kaitlyn Jepson, Senior Manager, Métis Rights
 Rajmeet Virk, Métis Rights, Legislation and Policy Manager
 Mariel Hong, Events Manager
 Alex Spier, Social Program Coordinator
 Rachel Ouellette, Board Secretariat Coordinator
 Lynn Berry, Board Committee Coordinator

Guests:

Dave Armitt, Chair of the Métis Veterans of British Columbia Committee

Regrets:

Minister Danielle Bergevin

Note: The agenda was varied by unanimous consent throughout the meeting. The minutes are recorded in the order listed on the agenda. Items added to the agenda at the meeting are at the end of these minutes.

1. Welcome

President Mineault called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM and welcomed everyone. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) provided an opening prayer.

1.1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

President Mineault acknowledged the Kelly Lake Métis Society and the traditional territory of the Dunne-za of which he was calling from.

Vice President Allard acknowledged the Two Rivers Métis Society and the traditional territory of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc of which she was calling from.

Region 1 - Minister Harriott acknowledged the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria and traditional territory of the Tsartlip and WSÁNEĆ peoples of which he was calling from.

Region 2 - Minister Lavallee acknowledged the Waceya Métis Society and traditional and unceded territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie and Semiahmoo First Nations People of which he was calling from.

Region 3 – Minister Gladue the Two Rivers Métis Society and the traditional territory of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc of which he was calling from.

Region 4 - Minister Fisher acknowledged the Columbia Valley Métis Association and traditional shared territory of the Ktunaxa and Secwepemc Nations of which she was calling from.

Region 5 - Minister Gervais acknowledged the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh which he was calling from.

Region 6 - Minister Hooper acknowledged the traditional territory of the Gitidmt'en and home of the Tri River Métis Community of she was calling from.

Region 7 - Minister Flamond acknowledged the Fort St John Métis Society and the traditional territory of the Beaver of which she was calling from.

BC Women Chair – Minister Carriere acknowledged the Vancouver Sea to Sky Métis Association and the traditional territory of the Tsawwassen and Musqueam First Nations from where she was calling from.

Staff at HQ - Our work takes place on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt and Tsawwassen First Nations. We respectfully acknowledge their stewardship of this land since time immemorial. MNBC recognizes the 39 Métis Chartered Communities we serve across British Columbia.

1.2. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Fisher

SECONDED: Minister Gladue

RESOLVED:

THAT the agenda of the December 9, 2024, Board of Directors meeting be approved with the following addition:

- Questions Regarding Board Meetings

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Harriott

SECONDED: Minister Hooper

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the November 12, 2024 Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Update on Action Items

The Board reviewed the Action Item List, updates were noted as follows:

- **20240212-01/20240422-01 Gender Diversity Training** – Four Board members currently need to complete the course. A reminder will be sent to those who have not completed their training. (In-Progress);
- **20240422-02 Senate Annual Report to Board of Directors** – MNBC has ongoing efforts with the Senate and the Senate Liaison to establish a regular procedure for obtaining these updates. (In-Progress);
- **20240523-01 16-Acre Will of Land to MNBC** - Minister Fisher looking to schedule a time to meet with Citizens in the Spring of 2025 to view the property. (In-Progress); and,
- **20241112-01 MWBC Resourcing** – Ongoing work underway to find funding for MWBC and MYBC on federal and provincial levels. (In-Progress).

3. Questions Regarding Board Meetings

Discussion highlighted several topics related to the structure and efficiency of Board meetings. Questions were raised about the typical length of Board meetings, with a suggestion to implement a consent agenda, which would require all members to read through agenda items in advance. It was noted that tech briefings help Board members stay informed prior to meetings, allowing them to address questions early.

There was a proposal for Board meetings to begin with an informal meeting, where only Board members meet to discuss matters privately before the full meeting. Another suggestion was to hold two-day Board meetings to reduce the length of individual meetings, ensuring they are manageable and allow adequate time for discussion and information processing. The topic of Board meeting structure will be revisited at the next Board meeting for further consideration of logistics and potential changes. The Governance and Policy Committee was tasked with reviewing the structure of Board meetings and bringing forward any relevant suggestions.

ACTION ITEM (20241209-01): The Governance and Policy Committee tasked with reviewing the structure of Board meetings and bringing forward any relevant suggestions for Board review and approval.

4. Strategic Plan Update

Sasha Hobbs, Chief Strategy Officer joined the meeting at 9:39 AM.

The Chief Strategy Officer provided updates on the strategic plan, focusing on key areas such as the Strategic Reporting Program, trends, and highlights. It was noted that the new Manager of Strategic Integration is now working with the Ministry and Department leads to produce high-quality reports and develop a tracking framework aligned with the Annual Plans. Once approved, these reports will streamline information and align with Mandate Letters, enabling the Board to oversee and track progress on reconciliation efforts. The reports will consist of four pages of high-level updates per Ministry or Department, including key highlights.

Discussion highlighted the value of quarterly reports and suggested allocating time in future meetings for questions related to the portfolios of the Ministers. Challenges faced by Ministries and potential areas of support were also raised as topics to focus on. A review of the hierarchy of needs followed, addressing outcomes, capacity, sustainability, strategy, and organizational culture. Both external and internal forces affecting operations were examined, including rights recognition, funding challenges, political complexities, and growing community needs. Internal impacts such as capacity, coordination, and communication were also discussed.

The critical path to achieving MNBC's goals was reviewed, along with next steps, including considerations for post-withdrawal from MNC. Additionally, feedback from an Elder regarding the term "Institute" was shared, with

plans to revisit the use of this term in various projects in response to concerns. Lastly, a quarterly meeting will be scheduled specifically to discuss strategic updates within Ministries.

Minister Gervais joined the meeting at 10:00 AM. Sasha Hobbs, Chief Strategy Officer, left the meeting at 10:23 AM.

5. Break

Recessed for break at 10:24 AM – reconvened at 10:42 AM

6. President Update

Discussion noted attendance at the Premier's swearing-in ceremony and meetings with MLAs, local Chiefs, and the newly elected Board. Although a meeting with the new Minister of Rights was not possible, efforts were made to arrange a future meeting and continue the relationship with MNBC. Additionally, the MMF lawsuit has been fully dropped and completed. Ongoing efforts are focused on strengthening relationships at both the provincial and federal levels. Staff are working on a roadmap for MNBC's exit from MNC and the implementation of MOUs/Mutual Recognition Agreements with other Nations. The MNC Implementation Plan is in development and is expected to be presented soon, while the Federal Justice piece remains on hold due to no response from Canada. The IELCC Agreement was signed recently, and STEPS is now operating at full capacity. Staffing changes within the legal counsel at Cassels are being managed.

7. Chief Governance Officer Update

7.1. Corporate Subsidiary Structure Articles (APPROVAL)

Discussion highlighted the intention to establish a second holding company (Holdco). It was noted that when acquiring new properties, setting up a Holdco helps avoid paying twice on property tax. The financial structure of the Holding Company will align with MNBC's financial policies and be set up similarly to Holdco #1.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Harriott

SECONDED: Minister Fisher

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approves the Articles of Métis Nation British Columbia Holdco 2 Incorporated, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.2. Appointment of Citizen Members - MBAC and EAC (APPROVAL)

The Terms of Reference (TOR) were reviewed. It was noted that there are two new applications and one reappointment request. A question was raised regarding whether pending citizenship is acceptable for committee membership. It was clarified that full citizenship is required to be on the committee. If citizenship is still pending, the applicant can be noted to apply in the future once citizenship is granted. Additionally, another callout will be made to the community.

ACTION ITEM (20241209-02): Another callout for committee applications will be sent out.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Hooper

SECONDLED: Minister Flamond

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors appoints the following Citizens to the Environmental Advisory Committee for a one-year term, expiring in January 2026:

- Jason McNiven
- Ross Everatt

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion highlighted the current applications and qualifications for membership under the existing Terms of Reference (TOR). The need for regional representation on the committee was also addressed. Support was expressed for the new members who have submitted applications. A letter will be sent to previous members whose terms have expired, explaining that their terms have ended as per the TOR, and informing them that they are welcome to apply during the next committee member intake.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Flamond

SECONDLED: Minister Gervais

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors appoints the following Citizens to the Métis Business Advisory Committee for a one-year term, expiring in January 2026:

- Trevor Pidcock
- Anthony Wingham
- Braeden Timms
- Paul Save
- Roger LeClerc

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.3. People and Culture Committee Membership and TOR (APPROVAL)

The People and Culture Terms of Reference (TOR) was reviewed noting the proposed minor updates.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Flamond

SECONDLED: Minister Hooper

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors, as recommended by the Governance and Policy Committee, approves the terms of reference for the People and Culture Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Flamond

SECONDED: Minister Gervais

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors appoints Melanie Allard to the People and Culture Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Credit Union Exploratory Committee Recommendation (APPROVAL)

Anna Maione, Chief Financial Officer joined the meeting at 11:35 AM.

Background was provided on the Credit Union Exploratory Committee, which is exploring the possibility of establishing a credit union. Ongoing discussions have focused on securing funding for MNBC's portion of the project, with efforts to identify potential sources for these funds. It was noted that funding could be drawn from the Economic Development funds. The Board expressed support for exploring the establishment of a Credit Union and agreed that Economic Development funds could be used, as this aligns with economic development goals. The Board directed staff to investigate funding options and report back. A letter will be sent promptly to MFCBC requesting their involvement in securing funds to further explore the establishment of a credit union.

Anna Maione, Chief Financial Officer left the meeting at 11:41 AM.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Flamond

SECONDED: Vice-President Allard

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Credit Union Exploratory Committee, allocates \$30,000 in funding from the Ministry of Economic Development for a credit union feasibility study.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Rights Assertion Workshop Agenda Review (INFORMATION)

Peter Csicsai, Chief Relations Officer, Kaitlyn Jepson, Senior Manager, Métis Rights, and Rajmeet Virk, Métis Rights, Legislation and Policy Manager, joined the meeting at 11:43 AM.

The draft agenda for the Rights Workshop on January 23rd was reviewed, with a proposal to include a discussion on how to involve the community and communicate with community leaders and citizens, particularly regarding Rights Recognition. Additionally, it was requested that all documents be sent to the Board prior to the meeting to facilitate better preparation. It was proposed that staff presenting the workshop provide an update on the research project overview for the Board. The importance of maintaining neutrality in the research was emphasized, and it was noted that questions could be submitted to the Rights team ahead of time.

Peter Csicsai, Chief Relations Officer, Kaitlyn Jepson, Senior Manager, Métis Rights, and Rajmeet Virk, Senior Policy and Legislation Analyst left the meeting at 11:56 AM.

10. 2025 In-Person MNGA Venue (APPROVAL)

Mariel Hong, Events Manager joined the meeting at 11:56 AM.

Discussion focused on the proposed location for the MNGA meeting, scheduled for May 30-June 1st, at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel. It was noted that the location needed to be finalized soon due to the meeting coinciding with a high travel season.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Gladue

SECONDED: Minister Lavallee

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approves the MNBC 2025 In-Person MNGA be held at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Lunch Break

Recessed for lunch break at 12:00 PM – reconvened at 12:34 PM

12. Spring MNGA Resolutions (APPROVAL)

Colleen Hodgson, Executive Director, Citizenship and Children and Families, and Alexander Jacquard, Citizenship Quality Assurance Manager, joined the meeting at 12:35 PM.

By-Election Timelines:

The proposed by-election timeline was reviewed, with changes noted, including extending the maximum notice period from 120 to 180 days. A discussion followed about the necessity of more than 120 days for a by-election. It was noted that the current 120-day timeline resulted in the by-election being held over the holidays. The suggested 180-day timeline serves as a maximum, offering flexibility in case of holidays, postal strikes, or other delays. Additional time could also help in filling vacancies.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Harriott

SECONDED: Minister Hooper

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors, as recommended by the Governance and Policy Committee, endorses the following resolutions for the 2025 Spring MNGA:

- By-Election Timelines

CARRIED with 6 in favour and 2 opposed.

MV-BC Representation at the MNGA:

It was discussed that the proposed resolution for the MV-BC Representation at the MNGA will be postponed and will be brought back for consideration in the future once there has been further discussion and involvement from all parties.

Citizenship Act Amendments:

Amendments focused on updating the language in the Citizenship Act to modernize it and ensure alignment with other Acts and the Constitution. The application process and Citizenship Registry were reviewed for clarity. The goal is to make the document easily understandable for citizens. The revisions aim to revitalize the Articles and improve cohesiveness by referencing other Acts. The process for ongoing citizenship applications and timelines was discussed, with community outreach planned for the new year to provide information and assist applicants in gathering necessary documents. It was noted that if an individual's citizenship is under review, services would be paused after 90 days, with the timeline extended from 60 to 90 days to allow for the gathering of supporting documents. This change ensures consistency with other documents.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Hooper

SECONDED: Minister Gervais

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors, as recommended by the Governance and Policy Committee, endorses the following resolutions for the 2025 Spring MNGA:

- Citizenship Act Amendments

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Citizenship Act – Article 12:

The resolution to remove Article 12 from the Citizenship Act was discussed. The process for obtaining citizenship was reviewed, with notes highlighting that MNBC communicates with Indigenous Services Canada who conducts screening to ensure applicants do not already have First Nations status. If an applicant holds First Nations status, they would be removed from the Métis Registry. It was also noted that if a child is adopted by someone who is Métis but does not have Métis heritage, they would not be eligible for a citizenship card. This resolution focuses solely on the citizenship process and the integrity of the registry.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Hooper

SECONDED: Minister Lavallee

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors, as recommended by the Governance and Policy Committee, endorses the following resolutions for the 2025 Spring MNGA:

- Citizenship Act – removal of Article 12

CARRIED with 5 in favour and 4 opposed

Colleen Hodgson, Executive Director, Citizenship and Children and Families, and Alexander Jacquard, Citizenship Quality Assurance Manager, left the meeting at 2:15 PM.

13. People and Culture Policies (APPROVAL)

Brent Weberg, Chief Operating Officer, joined the meeting at 2:16 PM

A high-level overview was provided for each policy seeking Board approval. It was noted that any policies passed by the Board would be communicated to staff for their awareness and to ensure they read the updated policies.

The People and Culture department would distribute the policies, indicating they have been approved by the Board.

MOTION:

MOVED: Vice-President Allard

SECONDED: Minister Gladue

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the People and Culture Committee, approve the following policy: Appropriate Use Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION:

MOVED: Vice-President Allard

SECONDED: Minister Hooper

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the People and Culture Committee, approve the following policy: Business Tools Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Flamond

SECONDED: Minister Fisher

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the People and Culture Committee, approve the following policy: Respect and Privacy with Communications/Interactions and Authorized/Unauthorized Recordings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION:

MOVED: Vice-President Allard

SECONDED: Minister Gladue

RESOLVED:

THAT the MNBC Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the People and Culture Committee, approve the following policy: Temporarily Working out of Province.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. Break

Recessed for break at 2:40 PM – reconvened at 2:50 PM

15. Meeting Moves In-Camera

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Harriott

SECONDED: Minister Carriere

RESOLVED:

THAT the meeting move in-camera.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting moved in-camera at 2:50 PM.

The meeting moved out of in-camera at 4:50 PM.

16. Pat Calihou Signage (INFORMATION)

Sharlene Wedel, Executive Director Ministry of Education, Early Learning and K-1, Danielle Sayers Jimeno, Director, Early Years, and Lena Hirst, Child Care Project Lead, joined the meeting at 4:50 PM.

Background was provided on the signage project for custom wood signage at all of MNBC's education buildings, and childcare centers. Pat Calihou's work spans across the province and will be featured at 11 childcare centers across the province. The signage and sample work are consistent with MNBC's Architectural Guidelines, and the Communications Department is collaborating with Education to ensure all communications align with MNBC standards. There are no financial implications for MNBC, as the costs are included in the building budgets. The Ministry of Education will partner with the artist to ensure alignment with timelines and local communities. Samples of the artist's previous work have been reviewed.

Sharlene Wedel, Executive Director Ministry of Education, Early Learning and K-1, Danielle Sayers Jimeno, Director, Early Years, and Lena Hirst, Child Care Project Lead, left the meeting at 5:02 PM.

17. Invictus Games (INFORMATION)

Alex Spier, Social Program Coordinator, and Dave Armitt, Chair of the Métis Veterans of British Columbia Committee, joined the meeting at 5:03 PM.

A background was provided on the Invictus Games, scheduled to take place in Whistler from February 8th to 16th. It was noted that Métis art was not initially included in the presentation, but it was clarified that Métis culture could be showcased at the convention center, with Veterans Affairs working on reserving space for these displays. Specific time slots and days are to be confirmed by the organizers, and once finalized, MNBC will be informed to prepare presentation items. It was emphasized that MNBC and Veterans Affairs must be prepared to act quickly once the days and slots are confirmed, even with short notice. Jigging performances may also be considered during program hours. Further clarification will be sought from Veterans Affairs as more details become available.

Regarding medal presentations, it was noted that MNBC veterans could have the opportunity to present awards, potentially with both a male and female delegate to ensure gender equality in veteran representation. The discussion highlighted the need for flexibility as more details are still being gathered. The Board expressed support for MNBC's involvement in the Invictus Games and will explore if any citizens are interested in participating as athletes. The matter will be brought back to the Board once more information is available.

Alex Spier, Social Program Coordinator, and Dave Armitt, Chair of the Métis Veterans of British Columbia Committee, left the meeting at 5:27 PM.

18. Ministry of Health and Wellness (INFORMATION)

It was highlighted that cultural aspects have not yet been integrated into health and wellness initiatives. There is a desire to secure funding for discussions with traditional healers to explore ways of incorporating traditional healing into mainstream health processes. A key question raised during the discussion was the need to define the distinction between Métis and First Nations traditional healing, which requires further exploration to determine the best integration approach.

The focus remains on finding ways to incorporate Métis traditional practices into modern healthcare systems, with additional discussions planned for future Board Goal Planning sessions regarding the health portfolio. Furthermore, the "In Plain Sight" Report recommended that the Ministry of Health establish a senior-level health relationship table with the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and direct health authorities to create collaborative Letters of Understanding (LOUs) with Métis Chartered Communities. These LOUs should clearly outline expectations and include partnership tables, joint work plans, and funding for Métis participation.

A meeting will be scheduled with key individuals to discuss the current MOU/LOUs and explore further the integration of traditional medicines and available funding options. This topic will be revisited for additional discussion in the new year. Additionally, it was noted that a new working group with Health and the Province has been formed, and more specific information, including the members of this group, will be provided once available.

Minister Gervais left the meeting at 5:48 PM.

19. MOWGE Ministerial Lead (INFORMATION)

Updates on the MOWGE Ministerial Lead will be sent out to the Board of Directors via email.

20. Board Goal Setting (DISCUSSION)

Discussion focused on Board Goal Setting will take place at the January Board of Directors meeting.

21. Committee Meeting Minutes (INFORMATION)

The following Committee Minutes were circulated to the Board of Directors for information:

- 2024-03-07 CUEC Minutes – Approved
- 2024-06-14 Finance and Audit Committee Minutes – Approved
- 2024-10-01 GAP Minutes – Approved
- 2024-10-03 SIDC Minutes – Approved
- 2024-10-02 – Executive Minutes – Approved
- 2024-10-24 – CUEC Revised Minutes - Approved

22. Record of Decisions

A Record of Decisions for the Board of Directors and RGC Meetings was distributed to the Board for their information.

23. Adjournment

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister Harriott

SECONDED: Minister Fisher

RESOLVED:

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM.

Approval Sheet

Approved by:  President

Approved by:  Secretary

Date: January 21, 2025