

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting:	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING		
Date of Meeting:	December 15, 2025	Time:	1:00 PM
Minutes Prepared By:	Nicole Ludwig (via video and contemporaneous notes)	Location:	Surrey HQ / Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES (9:07 AM)

Participating Board of Directors:	Participating Staff:
President Walter Mineault Vice-President Melanie Allard Minister Danielle Bergevin Minister Carmen Carriere Minister Louis De Jaeger Minister Dean Gladue Minister Paulette Flamond Minister Raynie Gervais Minister Allan Lavallee	Marc Riddell, Executive Director of Communications & Community Engagement

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. Board Meeting Returns from In Camera

The Board Meeting reconvened in open session at 1:00 PM with the following present, and President Mineault in the Chair:

Participating Board of Directors:	Participating Staff:
President Walter Mineault Vice-President Melanie Allard Minister Danielle Bergevin Minister Carmen Carriere Minister Louis De Jaeger Minister Paulette Flamond Minister Raynie Gervais Minister Dean Gladue Minister Allan Lavallee	Marc Riddell, Executive Director of Communications and Community Engagement

Regrets:

Minister Debra Fisher
 Minister Patrick Harriott
 Minister Susie Hooper

2. Release from In Camera

During the In Camera meeting on this day, the Board of Directors approved the following motions:

Board Motion #1 Constitutional Clarification and Reinstatement of President

MOVED: Minister Gladue

SECONDED: Minister Gervais

WHEREAS the Métis Nation British Columbia Executive Committee purported to suspend MNBC President Walter Mineault effective August 18, 2025;

AND WHEREAS Article 24 of the MNBC Constitution provides that the suspension of any Member of the MNBC Board of Directors, including the President, requires a vote of the majority of the Members of the Board of Directors, and there is no Constitutional authority permitting the MNBC Executive Committee to suspend the President;

AND WHEREAS no such vote of the majority of the MNBC Board of Directors has occurred;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The MNBC Board of Directors confirms and ratifies that President Walter Mineault is, and continues to be, the lawful and duly elected President of MNBC.
- B. President Mineault is reinstated with full authority to carry out the duties and functions of the Office, subject to all existing MNBC policies, Board directions, and the collective authority of the Board of Directors.
- C. The Board directs that any governance or operational issues arising from this matter shall be brought back to the Board for review to ensure transparent, balanced, and Constitutional oversight.
- D. The President and the MNBC Board of Directors will continue with mediation with the Senate to resolve any differences or challenges identified by either side.

CARRIED

(Acting Vice-President Harriott, and Ministers Hooper, and Lavallee opposed)

MOTION: Release from In Camera

MOVED: Minister Flamond

SECONDED: Minister de Jaeger

THAT "Board Motion #1 Constitutional Clarification and Reinstatement of President" be released from in-camera immediately.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Appointments to Executive Committee

In discussion, it was noted that Ministers Fisher, and Harriott had stepped down from the Executive Committee. It was also clarified that the Board Members holding the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer constitute the Executive Committee, and these appointments are not subject to Art 8.6 of the *Electoral Act*.

MOTION:

MOVED:

SECONDED:

THAT the following be appointed to the Executive Committee:

- Louis de Jaeger, Treasurer
- Paulette Flamond, Secretary

CARRIED (one opposed and one abstention)

4. Legal Counsel

President Mineault requested this matter be added to the agenda. There being no objection, this topic was added and discussed at this time during the meeting. Minister de Jaeger read out the motion set out below.

In discussion, Executive Committee members noted:

- External Legal Counsel has been obtained by the Executive but has not been approved by the Board of Directors;
- The motion under consideration only affects Baker Newby and Barton Thaney Law;
- Other lawyers who provided advice prior to the hiring of Ms. Allison will be paid for their work;

Note: During discussion on this matter, Vice-President Allard left the meeting at 1:37 PM and did not return.

MOVED: Minister de Jaeger

SECONDED: Minister Gervais

WHEREAS the MNBC Executive Committee purported to suspend MNBC President Walter Mineault effective August 18, 2025.

WHEREAS the MNBC Executive Committee retained the services of Benjamin M. Lorimer of the law firm Baker Newby to provide advice related to the suspension and other matters.

WHEREAS retaining Benjamin M. Lorimer of the law firm Baker Newbie was neither approved nor ratified by the MNBC Board of Directors.

WHEREAS the MNBC Board of Directors does not require the legal services of Benjamin M. Lorimer of the law firm, Baker Newbie, and will not accept any financial responsibility for the payment of any services provided after December 15, 2025;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Benjamin M. Lorimer, of the law firm Baker Newby, be advised that any retainer by MNBC or on behalf of the MNBC Executive Committee is immediately terminated.

FURTHER THAT MNBC will not pay for any services for Benjamin M. Lorimer, of the law firm Baker Newby, after December 15, 2025;

FURTHER THAT the MNBC Board of Directors agrees to MNBC retaining Gwendoline Allison, of the firm Barton Thaney Law, to provide legal services and advice to the MNBC Board of Directors, and directs and authorizes that MNBC pay invoices submitted by Gwendoline Allison, Barton Thaney Law.

CARRIED (one opposed and one member absent for the vote)

5. General Discussion

Note: During the general discussion, Minister Lavallee left the meeting at 1:50 PM, and did not return.

The Board of Directors concluded the meeting with a general discussion, noting the following:

- Concerns raised around an email sent to Communities from the Vice-President, regarding the reinstatement of President Mineault, and possible sanctions;
 - The decision on this should not be rushed, especially since emotions are elevated;
 - A legal perspective on the email should be obtained;
 - The Board Communication policy should be reviewed in light of this communication.
 - Any sanctions imposed on the Vice-President by the Board should be unanimous at this point.
- Decisions made by the Executive Committee over the past six months need to be shared with the Board of Directors;
- The Board needs to be aware of any safety plans that have been developed for Board meetings;
- Terms of reference for investigations, along with any updates to them need to be shared;
- Any decisions by the Board related to the last six months need to be done thoughtfully, and legal counsel should be consulted to inform those decisions.

MOTION:

MOVED: Minister de Jaeger

SECONDED: Minister Gladue

THAT Vice-President Allard's access to her MNBC email address be paused, and any emails directed to that email address be forwarded to President Mineault.

DEFEATED

(3 opposed, 2 abstained)

6. Adjournment

MOTION:

APPROVED

MOVED: Minister Bergevin
SECONDED: Minister de Jaeger
RESOLVED:
THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Approval Sheet

Approved by:  President

Approved by:  Secretary

Date: January 23, 2026

APPROVED