MEETING MINUTES

Meeting:	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING		
Date of Meeting:	August 24, 2026	**Time:**	9:00 AM
Minutes Prepared By:	Thereza Fonseca	**Location:**	Surrey HQ / Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Participating Board of Directors:	**Participating Staff:**
Vice-President Melanie Allard	Colleen Hodgson, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Minister Debra Fisher	Jas Rehal, Acting Chief Operating Officer
Minister Susie Hooper	Anna Maione, Chief Financial Officer
Minister Paulette Flamond	Barinder Lalli, Board Committee Coordinator
Minister Louis De Jaeger	Thereza Fonseca, Board Secretariat Coordinator
Minister Patrick Harriott	
Minister Dean Gladue	
Minister Raynie Gervais	
Minister Allan Lavallee	
Minister Carmen Carriere	
Minister Danielle Bergevin	

Note: The agenda was varied by unanimous consent throughout the meeting. The minutes are recorded in the order they were considered.

1. Welcome/Call to Order/Opening Prayer

Vice-President Allard called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and welcomed everyone. Minister Dean Gladue provided an opening prayer.

2. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

Interim President Allard acknowledged the Two Rivers Metis 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 W̱SÁNEĆ peoples of which he was calling from.

Region 2 - Minister Lavallee acknowledged the 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 and Acting Vice-President Gladue acknowledged 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.

BC Youth Chair - Minister Bergevin acknowledged the North Fraser Métis Association and the traditional territorial land of Kwikwetlem First Nation of which she was calling from.

BC 2SLGBTQQIA+ Chair – Minister De Jaeger acknowledged the Chilliwack Métis Association and the traditional territorial land of Ts'elxweyeqw and Pilalt Tribes of which he 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.

3. MNBC Values

Presenter: Melanie Allard

MNBC Values:

1. kwayes'kwât'sowin – Integrity
2. kisîwât'sowin – Kindness
3. ahtisihcikêwin – Innovation
4. manâcihitowin – Respect
5. atoskâtowin - Teamwork
6. tâpahtiyim'sowin - Humility
7. sîpihkisôwin – Resilience

MNBC Board Values:

1. Collaboration
2. Transparency
3. Trust
4. Kindness

4. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

MOTION:
MOVED: Minister De Jaeger
SECONDED: Minister Flamond
RESOLVED:
THAT the agenda of the August 24-25, 2026 Board of Directors meeting be approved with the following additions:

- Vehicle Update

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In response to a query, it was advised that a debrief on the Election/OneFeather could be provided at an upcoming Board of Directors meeting.

5. Conflict of Interest Declaration

None were declared.

6. Adoption of Meeting Minutes

MOTION:
MOVED: Minister De Jaeger
SECONDED: Minister Glaude
RESOLVED:
THAT the minutes of the following Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented:

- July 13, 2026;
- July 16, 2026;
- August 4, 2026;
- August 11, 2026; and

FURTHER THAT the July 27, 2026 and July 29, 2026 Board of Directors meeting minutes be approved with the following changes:

July 27, 2026 Board Minutes:

- For item #17, change “Minister Bergevin” to “Minister Hooper” as being opposed.

July 29, 2026 Board Minutes:

- Update Minister Hooper’s traditional land acknowledgement to “Kwanlin Dün First Nation”.

CARRIED with four abstentions to the July 16, 2026 minutes, and one abstention to the August 11, 2026 minutes.

7. Update on Action Items

20241209-01

Structure of Board of Director Meetings

The Governance and Policy Committee is reviewing the structure of Board meetings and working on proposing any relevant suggestions for updates to the meeting format. This will begin when the committee begins to meet again.

Update: The A/COO advised that the Committee will come back to the board in September with a revised Board Policy Manual which will include a proposed new Board meeting structure.

20260123-01

MNGA Emergency Resolutions

Governance staff to review how legislation can be amended to provide the Board with flexibility in emergency situations related to calling an MNGA. It was noted that criteria could be proposed for what constitutes an emergency, but if the purpose is to establish this through legislation, then it will be at the will of the MNGA and AGM.

Update: A/COO will bring this item forward at the September meeting.

20260603-02

Procurement and Business Opportunities

Establishment of a Terms of Reference for a Committee related to Procurement and Business Opportunities.

Update: It was advised that the Director, Financial Development, is working on this item. The board is requesting an update and would then remove this item from the Board Action Item list.

8. Chief Executive Officer Update

The A/CEO provided an update highlighting the following:

- Additional funding has been secured for two communities to support the ongoing wildfire response.
- A review is underway to improve organizational alignment, effectiveness, and readiness for the next two years.
- A hiring pause was implemented effective August 5, covering all new hires, promotions, reclassifications, and lateral transfers. Existing staffing requests are being reviewed in conjunction with Finance to ensure alignment with approved budgets and funding availability. The pause will remain until a strategic hiring plan is developed.
- The "People and Culture" department will be changed to the "Human Resources" department to better reflect its administrative function, while reaffirming that Métis culture, identity, and heritage remain central to the organization.

9. Motion to Move In-Camera

MOTION:
MOVED: Minister De Jaeger
SECONDED: Minister Flamond
RESOLVED:
THAT the Board of Directors meeting move in-camera pursuant to following subsections of Board Policy Manual Policy D-1:

I. Negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Board of Directors, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of MNBC if they were held in public.

CARRIED with four opposed.

The meeting moved in camera at 10:29 AM.

The meeting moved out of in-camera at 11:49 AM.

10. Lunch

The board recessed for lunch at 11:50 AM and reconvened at 1:00 PM.

11. Finance Update

The Board received a financial update from the CFO. It was noted that the signed audited financial statements for the previous year have been received, compiled, and included in the AGM package, and are now published on the website. The RFP for external audit services for fiscal year 2026-27 closed with four submissions from well-known accounting firms, and the evaluation process will commence this week.

MNP is continuing their document review, with a preliminary update expected at the August 25 Board meeting and final findings to be presented in September. Additionally, work is progressing on the new budget methodology and templates for quarterly Board updates, alongside development of the Treasury Board model to centralize funding and ensure appropriate internal resource allocation.

12. Governance and Operations Update

The Board received an update on the by-election. While the backend process with OneFeather ran smoothly, several citizen-facing issues were noted. The audio and visual quality of the stream was a point of concern. A comprehensive post-event review will be conducted with OneFeather to identify improvements, and findings to inform the next RFP for electoral services. Additionally, concerns were raised about voters list accuracy, including out-of-province citizens remaining on the list, and the need for better voter education on ballot completion.

On the housing file, a staff-level meeting with MNBC is scheduled for September 11 in Ottawa to discuss funding accords, with a follow-up meeting with Gregor Robertson expected to be delayed until early fall. Further debriefs will follow.

13. Record of Decisions Review

Reviewed.

14. Community Event Funding

MOTION:
MOVED: Minister Allan Lavallee
SECONDED: Minister Debra Fisher
RESOLVED:
THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approve the recommendation of the Community Event Funding Review Committee for funding distribution structure of Board Strategic Priority funds to support community events for the October 2026 application intake, as described in the Briefing Note dated July 30th, and set out below:

Evenly distributing the available funding to all eligible applications with a pre-identified maximum per application of $5000. MNBC staff would review applications for completeness and basic adherence to the established criteria, no longer requiring committee assessment of applications. Applications would then be submitted to the MNBC Board of Directors for final decision-making and funding distribution.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. STEPS Scholarship Program

MOTION:
MOVED: Minister Debra Fisher
SECONDED: Minister Carmen Carriere
RESOLVED:
THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approve the budget and priority education streams for the 2026-27 to 28-29 fiscal years, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minister Dean Gladue departed the meeting at 1:45 PM.

16. NIMA Operator Award for Campbell River

MOTION:
MOVED: Minister Patrick Harriott
SECONDED: Minister Allan Lavallee
RESOLVED:
THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approve the appointment of North Island Métis Association (NIMA) as the Operator of the Campbell River Child Care facility and approve pre-operational funding of $98,400 for a one-year term to support the hiring of an Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Manager to coordinate program development and operational readiness.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17. Michif Program Funding

MOTION:
MOVED: Minister Patrick Harriott
SECONDED: Minister Susie Hooper
RESOLVED:
THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approve $200,000 in additional Michif Language grant funding to Chartered Communities, using a streamlined expression of interest disbursement model.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minister Dean Gladue rejoined the meeting at 1:45 PM.

18. BC First Nations Justice Council

MOTION:
MOVED: Minister Debra Fisher
SECONDED: Minister Patrick Harriott
RESOLVED:
THAT the MNBC Board of Directors approve the MNBC-BCFNJC General Operational Workplan and direct the A/CEO to sign and implement the Workplan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

19. Clearing the Path Research Study Report

The Board received an update on the Clearing the Path research study, a partnership with UBCO and Dr. Gabrielle Legault. The survey drew 334 responses from Métis youth aged 15–30, though it was noted that participants were mostly those already connected to MNBC or their chartered communities. Several key takeaways stood out. Youth continue to prioritize cultural learning and connection, and communication remains a challenge. The study also highlighted impostor syndrome and a need for belonging, with many youth expressing they don't feel "Métis enough."

In response to issues raised, the Ministry of Youth is embedding Elders and knowledge carriers into all events, weaving in Métis language and worldviews, relaunching a youth newsletter, and providing travel support for in-person gatherings. Virtual options are also being offered to improve accessibility.

The report will be made public, and Board members were encouraged to share it widely with chartered communities so the findings are put to good use.

20. Piihtikway (Come In)

The Board received an update on the Piihtikway resource, a project launched in 2024 by the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity in collaboration with the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community. The title means "Come In," reflecting the goal of creating belonging and well-being for Two-Spirit and LGBTQQIA+ Métis people.

Building on a 2023 study, the resource weaves together stories, artwork, and teachings from 40 self-identified 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals across BC. It includes a virtual speaker series, art series, beading workshop, and interviews, covering the history of presence within MNBC and offering guidance.

21. Upcoming AGM Week

The Board discussed the logistics for the upcoming AGM. It was requested that the strategy session scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2026 be changed to a Governance Training session. It was requested that an in-person strategic planning session, based on Board availability, be coordinated for early fall.

22. Former President's Vehicle

The Board confirmed that a final decision regarding the vehicle will be made at the September meeting.

23. Break

The Board recessed at 3:35 PM and reconvened at 3:50 PM.

24. Motion to Move In-Camera

MOTION:
MOVED: Minister Dean Gladue
SECONDED: Minister Debra Fisher
RESOLVED:
THAT the Board of Directors meeting move in-camera pursuant to following subsections of Board Policy Manual Policy D-1:

F. Litigation or potential litigation affecting MNBC;
I. Negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Board of Directors, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of MNBC if they were held in public.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting moved in-camera at 3:48 PM.

The meeting moved out of in-camera at 4:37 PM.

25. Reaffirming 2021 AGM Resolution

MOTION:
MOVED: Minister Carmen Carriere
SECONDED: Minister Louis De Jaeger
WHEREAS:

1. At the 2021 Annual General Meeting, the Citizens of MNBC approved the *MNBC Self-Government Declaration*, affirming MNBC as the recognized Métis government representing the Métis community in British Columbia, attached as Appendix A to this motion.

2. MNBC remains incorporated under the British Columbia *Societies Act*, which has at times resulted in MNBC being described or understood, both internally and externally, primarily as a not-for-profit society rather than as a Métis government.

3. Bylaw 5.3 of the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia establishes the MNBC Constitution as the paramount governing document of MNBC.

4. Métis people have historically been known as *Otipemisiwak* , the people who govern themselves.

5. The exercise of Métis self-government requires MNBC, its Board of Directors, elected officials, administration, and governing institutions to act in accordance with the Constitution, legislation, and laws established by and for MNBC Citizens, and

6. No decision, policy, practice, or administrative action of MNBC may supersede or be inconsistent with the MNBC Constitution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:
A. The MNBC Board of Directors reaffirms and adopts the principles of Métis self-government set out in the 2021 MNBC Self-Government Declaration.

B. The MNBC Board of Directors affirms that the MNBC Constitution is the highest governing law of MNBC, and that all decisions and actions of the Board must be made within the authority granted by, and be consistent with, the Constitution.

C. The MNBC Board of Directors commits to ensuring that MNBC is represented, governed, and operated as a democratic Métis government, and not characterized solely or primarily as a not-for-profit organization by virtue of its incorporation under the *Societies Act.*

D. The MNBC Board of Directors directs the Acting CEO to undertake a comprehensive review of MNBC legislation, bylaws, policies, governance instruments, and administrative practices to identify any provisions or practices that are inconsistent with, or do not appropriately reflect, the supremacy of the MNBC Constitution and MNBC's status as a Métis government.

E. The Acting CEO will report the findings of this review to the Board of Directors, together with recommendations for any legislative, policy, governance, or administrative amendments required to ensure full alignment with the MNBC Constitution and the principles of Métis self-government.

F. The MNBC Board of Directors directs the Acting CEO to issue a communication to MNBC Citizens regarding the Board's reaffirmation of the 2021 MNBC Self-Government Declaration and its commitment to Métis self-government.

Discussion ensued on the motion, and it was suggested that the main motion could be stronger with one addition provision.

AMENDMENT:
MOVED: Minister Patrick Harriott
SECONDED: Minister Susie Hooper
As the MNBC constitution is the primary instrument thought which our self-government is expressed
As the Constitution is an evergreen document that must be examined from time to time to ensure it is properly enabling our self-government goals
As the constitution contains the boards responsibilities to our citizens for accountable government, regular examination is essential in ensuring it continues to constructively serve citizens in the best way possible:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Main Motion be amended to add the following:

G. A review be included of the provisions in the Constitution, and recommendations for improvement, that ensure foremost it is in keeping with the principles of natural justice, the spirit of the historic Laws of St. Laurent - particularly the explicit reciprocal duty contained therein that leadership owes to Metis citizens, and the historic Metis governance principles of a government being accountable and transparent to the Citizens from whom they receive their delegated power.

DEFEATED with Ministers Lavallee, Hooper, Fisher, and Harriott in favour.

Question was called on the Main Motion and it was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FINAL MOTION:

WHEREAS:

1. At the 2021 Annual General Meeting, the Citizens of MNBC approved the *MNBC Self-Government* Declaration, affirming MNBC as the recognized Métis government representing the Métis community in British Columbia, attached as Appendix A to this motion.

2. MNBC remains incorporated under the British Columbia *Societies Act*, which has at times resulted in MNBC being described or understood, both internally and externally, primarily as a not-for-profit society rather than as a Métis government.

3. Bylaw 5.3 of the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia establishes the MNBC Constitution as the paramount governing document of MNBC.

4. Métis people have historically been known as *Otipemisiwak* , the people who govern themselves.

5. The exercise of Métis self-government requires MNBC, its Board of Directors, elected officials, administration, and governing institutions to act in accordance with the Constitution, legislation, and laws established by and for MNBC Citizens, and

6. No decision, policy, practice, or administrative action of MNBC may supersede or be inconsistent with the MNBC Constitution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

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B. The MNBC Board of Directors affirms that the MNBC Constitution is the highest governing law of MNBC, and that all decisions and actions of the Board must be made within the authority granted by, and be consistent with, the Constitution.

C. The MNBC Board of Directors commits to ensuring that MNBC is represented, governed, and operated as a democratic Métis government, and not characterized solely or primarily as a not-for-profit organization by virtue of its incorporation under the *Societies Act.*

D. The MNBC Board of Directors directs the Acting CEO to undertake a comprehensive review of MNBC legislation, bylaws, policies, governance instruments, and administrative practices to identify any provisions or practices that are inconsistent with, or do not appropriately reflect, the supremacy of the MNBC Constitution and MNBC's status as a Métis government.

E. The Acting CEO will report the findings of this review to the Board of Directors, together with recommendations for any legislative, policy, governance, or administrative amendments required to ensure full alignment with the MNBC Constitution and the principles of Métis self-government.

F. The MNBC Board of Directors directs the Acting CEO to issue a communication to MNBC Citizens regarding the Board's reaffirmation of the 2021 MNBC Self-Government Declaration and its commitment to Métis self-government.

26. Adjournment

MOTION:
MOVED: Minister Louis De Jaegger
SECONDED: Minister Allan Lavalle
RESOLVED:
THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM

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Approval Sheet

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Approved by: Melanie Allard Interim President

Approved by: Paulette Flamond Secretary

Date: September 15, 2026