



## MEETING MINUTES

<b>Meeting:</b>	SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	April 17, 2021	<b>Time:</b>	9:00am
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Derek Robitaille	<b>Location:</b>	Microsoft Teams Video Conference

### Attendees

**Participating Board:** Acting President Lissa Smith, Directors Dr. Kate Elliott, Shaughn Davoren, Patrick Harriott, Louis De Jaeger, Dean Gladue, Debra Fisher, Raynie Gervais, Susie Hooper, Paulette Flamond

**Regrets:** Clara Morin Dal Col

**Staff:** Daniel Fontaine – CEO/Deputy Minister, Chris Gall – Chief Public Affairs Officer

**Guests:** Peter Brown

### 1. Welcome

At 9:03am, Acting President Lissa Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting. Opening prayer was conducted by Director Gladue.

#### 1.1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

##### Board of Directors:

Acting President Lissa Smith acknowledged the Malahat First Nation and traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples of which she was calling from.

Director Elliott acknowledged the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria and traditional territory of the Lekwammen of which she was calling from.

Director Davoren acknowledged the traditional territory of the Syeelhwh Nation of which he was calling from.

Director Harriott acknowledged the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria and traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ peoples of which he was calling from.

Director De Jaeger acknowledged the Chilliwack Métis Association and traditional territory of the Sto:lo people of which he was calling from.

Director Gladue acknowledged the traditional territory of the Secwepemc Nation of which he was calling from.

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

Director Gervais acknowledged the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh of which he was calling from.

Director Hooper acknowledged the Tri-River Métis Community and traditional territory of the Gidimt'en of which she was calling from.

Director Flamond acknowledged the Kelly Lake Métis Society and traditional territory of the Dunne-za of which she was calling from.

##### Staff:

CEO, Daniel Fontaine acknowledged the Nova Métis Heritage Association and traditional territory of the Qayqayt First Nation of which he was calling from.

Chief Public Affairs Officer, Chris Gall acknowledged the traditional territory of the Coast Salish people and Musqueam Indian Band of which he was calling from.



## 1.2. Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED by (Director Harriott) and SECONDED by (Director Gladue) THAT the meeting agenda be approved as presented.  
**CARRIED**

## 2. Reinstatement of President Clara Morin Dal Col

Acting President Smith notified the Board of Directors that suspended President Clara Morin Dal Col would not be in attendance as per letter received on April 18, 2021.

The following questions were asked by Director De Jaeger:

**“What did you and senior management have to do after receiving that letter from the president which was directed to our banking institution?”**

CEO Daniel Fontaine answered that the Senior Director of Finance immediately took action to look at any potential implications in result of the letter.

**“You also reported that you have had difficulty getting a copy of the MNBC budget submission to the federal government. Can you describe what has happened? And there is a role that Mr. Dale Drown continues to play in MNBC affairs. What exactly is that role?”**

CEO Daniel Fontaine answered the MNBC budget submission to the federal government of Canada has typically been coordinated by the MNC on MNBC’s behalf, and signed off by all governing members – being a collective submission; staff assumed that MNBC would have been consulted on the submission itself. The CEO also confirmed he has had no previous discussions with President Dal Col about the \$2.8b ask and still none to date, nor any staff to his knowledge. MNBC reached out to the MNC when a statement was posted on President Dal Col’s website, indicating that she has made a budget submission from MNC which covered off MNBC’s submission. Senior MNC officials were then contacted and requested that a copy of the submission be provided to MNBC due to the accountability of having to properly invest those dollars for the community. The response received was that he, the CEO was not entitled to obtain a copy and if a copy was needed, he was to reach out to President Morin Dal Col and/or her “advisor”. CEO Daniel Fontaine’s assumption at the time was that the advisor was Dale Drown, former MNBC CEO, who continues to work with President Dal Col as well as the MNC. It was confirmed that Chief Public Affairs Officer, Chris Gall reached out to Mr. Drown to confirm if he had a copy of the budget submission. An email sent in response effectively confirmed a copy was in his hands, aware of what was submitted to the federal government of Canada and was not prepared to provide a copy to MNBC senior staff.

Due to the restrictions of what staff have in terms of interactions with President Morin Dal Col, it was believed that she has corresponded to MNBC, indicating she was unable to get a copy of the budget because her MNBC laptop was taken away; therefore, does not have access to the submission. The CEO concluded he was not involved in the development of the submission and his assumption is and could be incorrect that the submission was being drafted by Mr. Drown in consultation with Ms. Dal Col, only involving MNC staff.

**“Did the president ever tell you that she had a physical copy of an MNBC citizenship file for Lissa Smith and are you also aware of anyone else that might have a copy of that?”**

CEO Daniel Fontaine answered in terms of Ms. Smith’s genealogical records, it was his understanding from having discussions with staff, indicated that she did have a copy of Lissa’s personal file and mentioned on numerous occasions that she has seen the file. While it cannot be confirmed, she did have intimate knowledge of what was included, seemed familiar with the documentation, and at times sounded like former board members have possession or may have seen a copy of the file – causing great concern because MNBC’s record keeping, security, and protection of privacy is paramount. It was also noted that a former board director mentioned that if a copy of Lissa’s file was not provided, he/she would obtain a copy him/herself from Regional Headquarters. At the time, the President and Minister of Citizenship believed they had full-access and rights to freely obtain registry information. Moving forward, if there were



to be a breach, an investigation would be conducted. It was also noted that MNBC is currently in the process of a registry renewal which will include a full review of security and measurements surrounding the protection of citizen files.

**“On your affidavit, by way of further example, President Dal Col specifically directed you not to show the annual draft budget in its totality to the board’s Treasurer, Mr. Harriott and at various times, directed you not to show various documents to Mr. Gall. Keeping track of what you were allowed to show to whom became both burdensome, and also unmanageable for you to keep track of.**

**Are you in fact saying there were two sets of different budgets – one to be presented to the Treasurer and one that was going to be used for something else?”**

CEO Daniel Fontaine answered that the budget should have been presented to the President and Treasurer for review and discussion. Given the large sum of money, the CEO believed the budget should have received significant political oversight; however, Ms. Dal Col directed that the Treasurer should only be provided with high-level information for the Board of Directors and to leave out any details regarding FTE allocations. The CEO did state that directions were provided to the Senior Director of Finance that if the Treasurer was to seek any information about the budget, she was to provide that information. In result of the transpiring event(s), the Treasurer now has an open line of communication with the Senior Director of Finance.

### 3. Motions

Director Hooper withdrew her proposed motion.

It was then MOVED by (Director Harriott) and SECONDED by (Director Davoren)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) is a government, governed by a constitution adopted by its citizens, and represents the Métis peoples in British Columbia; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the MNBC has passed certain motions, including removing certain portfolios and temporarily suspending its President, Clara Morin Dal Col, on January 11, 2021 and January 18, 2021 respectively, which motions were passed as a result of the President’s actions; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors specifically convened this board meeting on April 17, 2021 to hear from the President, and among other things, to consider the President’s reinstatement; and

WHEREAS given the serious nature of the President’s conduct leading to those two motions, and the fact that the President has declined to attend this board meeting and certain questions of the board regarding the President’s conduct remain unanswered;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the MNBC board convene a further meeting on May 16, 2021 to consider three of the same resolutions being considered today, those being (1) the immediate reinstatement of the President, (2) the reinstatement of the President on certain terms, and (3) varying the terms of the President’s suspension.

Amended

Amendment MOVED by (Director Harriott) and SECONDED by (Director Davoren) THAT the MNBC board convene a further meeting no later than May 16, 2021.

Amendment to the Amendment

Amendment MOVED by (Director Harriott) and SECONDED by (Director Davoren) THAT the MNBC board convene a further meeting on May 15, 2021.



**CARRIED**

**FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

WHEREAS the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) is a government, governed by a constitution adopted by its citizens, and represents the Métis peoples in British Columbia; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the MNBC has passed certain motions, including removing certain portfolios and temporarily suspending its President, Clara Morin Dal Col, on January 11, 2021 and January 18, 2021 respectively, which motions were passed as a result of the President's actions; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors specifically convened this board meeting on April 17, 2021 to hear from the President, and among other things, to consider the President's reinstatement; and

WHEREAS given the serious nature of the President's conduct leading to those two motions, and the fact that the President has declined to attend this board meeting and certain questions of the board regarding the President's conduct remain unanswered;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

THAT the MNBC board convene a further meeting on May 15, 2021 to consider three of the same resolutions being considered today, those being (1) the immediate reinstatement of the President, (2) the reinstatement of the President on certain terms, and (3) varying the terms of the President's suspension.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:16am**

It was MOVED by (Director De Jaeger) and SECONDED by (Director Harriott) to adjourn the meeting.



# MÉTIS NATION

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

\*\*\*\*

### Approval Sheet

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Acting President

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

Date: **May 20, 2021**