

SENATORS MEETING
Cypress Room
Circle Drive Suites
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
November 15, 1993

Present: Gerald Morin, President, Métis Society of Saskatchewan
Philip Chartier, Treasurer, Métis Society of Saskatchewan
Bernice Hammersmith, Secretary, Métis Society of Saskatchewan
Earl Palletier, Métis Society of Saskatchewan
Ted Amendt, Gabriel Dumont Institute
Martin Aubichon, Regional Director, Western Region IIA
Edward King, Senator
Vital Morin, Senator
Alfred Genaille, Senator
Stan Durocher, Senator
John Boucher, Senator
Leo Amyotte, Senator
Lawrence Martell, Senator
Joe Fayant, Senator
Rose Ledoux, Senator
Marie Chaboyer, Senator
Nora Ritchie, Senator of Métis Women

Absent: Louis Morin, Senator
Gilbert Delorme, Senator

1.0 Opening Prayer

Senator Vital Morin opens with prayer.

Meeting begins at 9:40 a.m.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

MOVED BY: Senator Edward King;
SECONDED BY: Senator John Boucher

THAT the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED.

3.0 Selection of Chairperson

Senator Vital Morin nominates Senator John Boucher as Chairperson for meeting.

**MOVED BY: Senator Alfred Genaille;
SECONDED BY: Senator Edward King**

THAT Senator John Boucher act as Chairperson for meeting.

CARRIED.

4.0 Introduction, Gerald Morin

President Morin introduces discussion re: five year restructuring of the Métis Society of Saskatchewan. The MSS is presently in Phase One. This Phase began with the kickoff at the Self-Government Conference at the Delta Bessborough in Saskatoon. Since then there have been area workshops on Constitution amendments and changes in the organization. There has also been a local presidents assembly at Back to Batoche days where more ideas regarding changes to the organization and changes to the role of the Senate were brought forward.

5.0 Constitution

After three Provincial Council meetings, the members have come up with a proposed Constitution. At the Annual General Assembly on December 3 and 4, 1993 the assembly will either accept the new Constitution or discard it. The Métis Women have passed a unanimous decision to accept the proposed Constitution and the Métis Society of Saskatchewan Executive are also in agreement with the new proposed Constitution.

The views of Métis people in Saskatchewan are represented in the Constitution. If the Constitution is adopted at the Annual General Assembly more changes can be made during the meeting.

6.0 Métis Legislative Assembly

The idea of a Métis Legislative Assembly is brought forward in the Constitution. The MLA will control Phase Two and Phase Three of restructuring in the Métis Society. The MLA will be made up of

Provincial Council and local presidents. At assemblies, which would occur 3-4 times a year, they would pass laws for Métis people. Examples of these would be a Métis National Anthem Act, a Métis Citizenship Act and a Métis Education Act.

The Assembly would assign roles to the local presidents which would include giving presidents a direct role in decision making. There would be twelve regional governments in the regions and local governments in the locals. 75-80% of programs/services would fall under the jurisdiction of the Métis Legislative Assembly who could decentralize these to the local and regional governments.

President Morin would assign portfolios to cabinet ministers. The Provincial Métis Council and the Métis Legislative Assembly would have to approve these selections.

7.0 Role of Senate

The Senate has a new role in the proposed Constitution. The Senate would take control of elections and bi-elections. The Senate would appoint three Senators to control elections in the province. Appeals to the election would have to come through the three person election committee. Appeals to this would be sent to the Métis Legislative Assembly.

In the proposed Constitution the responsibility of membership and enumeration would fall on the Senate. Protocol and Ceremony can be assigned to the Senate. This would include opening prayers, oath of allegiance, ensuring Métis Flag and Métis Sash are visible during meetings, and the Métis National Anthem played.

Discussion of Code of Conduct which will be adopted in Phase One. Senate oversee the Code of Conduct and ensures that it is enforced. The Senate will act as a judicial system. Senate will also come up with a role for the Elders.

Earl Pelletier has been designated as full-time staff person from the Métis Society of Saskatchewan to assist the Senate in their responsibilities.

Problem addressed by Senators - why the Métis Legislative Assembly always gets final say? The Senate believes that this could lead to political disputes. If Senate would get final say, this could eliminate

court battles. President Morin - this issue be debated at the Annual General Assembly. Senate should designate a speaker to address this issue at Assembly.

Philip Chartier addressed the point of the Senate having final say. He believes that the Senate has to stay away from the politics of the organization and that the Métis Legislative Assembly has to have the final say. Senate won't get a vote at Provincial meetings, but they keep other voting rights.

8.0 Addition to Agenda

Immediately following meeting there will be a photo session for all Senators for a picture in New Breed.

9.0 Round Table Discussions

Bernice Hammersmith raised the question as to what protocol should be set for establishing a local. What about removing/adding Senators? Senate should come up with guidelines for Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest. She also addressed the issue of a safeguard for Senators.

Philip Chartier - there can be a regional Senate group. Elders could become judges in communities; ie. sentencing circles.

Senator John Boucher - the need to clarify what is a Senator and what is an Elder. Also discussed the possibility of a male and female Elder in each area.

Senator Vital Morin - there is no protection for the Senate and Senators. There should be protection so that they cannot be removed.

President Morin - in the new Constitution there will be no outlet for non-confidence votes against area directors. This will allow for more work and concentration rather than dealing with petty issues. Also that the Senate has to enforce the Code of Conduct for elected leaders.

Senator Vital Morin - there are no guidelines regarding the Senate. How they are appointed and how long they remain a Senator.

Philip Chartier - problem of lack of communication between the Executive and the Senate. There is a need to schedule more regular meetings. He also advised that in Phase Two of restructuring, there could be more roles for the Senate.

Martin Aubichon - the Constitution has to be clearly defined so that Senators cannot be kicked out.

10.0 Annual General Meeting and Constitution

Senators raise the issue that since the vote on the Constitution will come from the floor, there is a need to ensure that only citizens vote. President Morin advised that observers will sit along the back and will not be allowed to vote. Each area will be seated in specific sections enabling the presidents to ensure that only citizens vote.

Right now the Métis Society of Saskatchewan has:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Federal | - Canada Corporations Act |
| Provincial | - Non-Profit Corporations Act |
| | - Bylaws/Membership |
| Inherent Rights | - Constitution |
| | - Citizenship |

New Constitution will not fall under Non-Profit Corporations Act. MSS is developing a third order of Métis government. President Morin said that the political arm will not fall under the Non-Profit Corporations Act, but the administrative arm will. The reason for keeping the administrative arm under the Non-Profit Corporations Act is to continue to receive funding, be recognized as a legal entity, and keep affiliates. Non-Profit Corporations Act will be an interim until MSS officially gets self-government. He also mentioned that fine tuning of the Constitution can take place in Phase Two.

Bernice Hammersmith asked how the affiliates can fit into Constitution. President Morin - Ministers will become Chairpersons of affiliate boards. ie., GDI, DTI, SNEDCO. He also advised that it will take some time to bring all affiliates into Constitution.

Meeting adjourned for lunch. To reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

11.0 Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson called meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Senators introduced themselves for the record.

12.0 Constitution

Discussion regarding the new proposed Constitution resumed.

There will be 16 Provincial Council members instead of 15. The added member will be from the Métis Women. President Morin stated that the Métis Women will receive four seats in the Métis Legislative Assembly. This motion will have to be passed at the Board level at Métis Women Annual Assembly.

Senators unitedly agree that final decisions should rest with them regarding the new roles they will assume.

13.0 New Senate Member

Senate discussed adding Nora Ritchie, a Senator for Métis Women, as a Senator for the Métis Society.

MOVED BY: Senator Edward King;

SECONDED BY: Senator Alfred Genaille

THAT Nora Ritchie be accepted as a new Senator.

CARRIED.

14.0 Summary of Constitution Appeals

1. Agreed with seven new roles as follows:
 1. Membership/Enumeration
 2. Central Registry
 3. Elections/Bi-elections
 4. Appeals (memberships, etc)
 5. Ceremony and Protocol (opening prayer, anthem, flag, etc)
 6. Draft Code of Conduct
 7. Métis Veterans

2. Final right of appeal for Senators regarding memberships and enumerations, elections and general conflicts.
Senate has the power to hand decision over to Provincial Council at their discretion.
3. Appointing a Senator.
Twelve Senators will be appointed by the Regional Council and the thirteenth member will be appointed by the Métis Women.
When a resignation occurs, the same process will take place to reappoint a Senator.

Recommendations will be taken to the Annual General Assembly.

15.0 Terms of Reference

When a Senator is selected, the role is for life. When the Senator cannot perform the duties, they will resign and the title "Senator" is kept by the individual as an honorary title.

16.0 Senate Support of Constitution

President Morin asked the Senators if they were ready to support the Constitution.

**MOVED BY: Senator Edward King;
SECONDED BY: Senator Vital Morin**

THAT the Senate support the proposed Constitution.

CARRIED.

Senators will follow up in their regions re: any questions regarding the Constitution.

17.0 Annual General Assembly

The Annual General Assembly will be held in the Centennial Auditorium basement in Saskatoon on December 3 and 4, 1993. The assembly will discuss the Constitution, land claims and the Bilateral and Trilateral process.

18.0 Role of Senators at Annual General Assembly

Senators will handle protocol by ensuring that the flag is prominent, that sashes are worn, that the anthem is played and that a Senator opens with prayer.

Earl Pelletier - recommends hiring four ushers (two men and two women) as a security measure to assist the Senate with controlling speakers from the floor.

Senator Vital Morin - the Senate and the Executives march in during the anthem carrying the flag. The Senate and Executives will wear sashes and the Senators can wear medals and other war uniforms they have. Three flags will be visible: Canadian, Saskatchewan and Métis.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Senators will give an oath of office. They will swear in Nora Ritchie, Rose Ledoux, and Gilbert Delorme as Senators and also swear in Harry Daniels as a new director.

Senators have to discuss:

1. Who will open with prayer?
2. Which Senator will make presentations?
3. Who will count the votes?

19.0 Métis Senate Funding Proposal

The Saskatchewan Indian and Métis Affairs Secretariat (SIMAS) is now considering a funding proposal for the Senate. The proposal will include the Senate meeting 4 times a year to discuss elections and memberships and deal with outstanding issues. The proposal will be sent to the Secretary of State now that the Senate is such an important part to the organization and the self-government process. The budget was set at \$149,000 and will be increased.

Biographies and pictures are needed from the Senators. The proposal will be resubmitted with more emphasis now that Senators have an expanded role.

20.0 Louis Riel Memorial Day

Discussion of agenda for Louis Riel Memorial Day. Senators to wear sashes, uniforms, and to carry flag. Vehicles will be made available outside the Métis Society office and outside of the Circle Drive Suites to take Senators to memorial service at Friendship Park in Saskatoon.

21.0 Meeting Adjourns

There is a reminder to the Senate that Earl Pelletier is now the full-time staff person in charge of assisting the Senate.

MOVED BY: Senator Stan Durocher;
SECONDED BY: Senator Nora Ritchie

THAT the meeting adjourn at 3:15 p.m.