

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

REFORMING THE MN-S CONSTITUTION AND RELATED LEGISLATION



Notes:

**Métis
Nation
Legislative
Assembly**

MOTION

**April 21
2019**

It was MOVED (Gerald Morin) and SECONDED (Lisa McCallum)

WHEREAS the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan has heard from citizens of the Métis Nation -Saskatchewan about the need for Constitutional Reform;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan held Constitutional workshops at the Legislative Assembly in April 2019;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed that Constitutional Reform is needed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan under the instructions of the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, develop a Constitutional Reform process including further engagement with the Citizens of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs report to the next Métis Nation Legislative Assembly on the progress of the Reform process, and bring forward any amendments that might be necessary at that time for consideration, discussion and ratification of the Legislative Assembly and the General Assembly.

CARRIED (MNLA190414-11)

87 Delegates voted in favour

0 Delegates voted in opposition

1 Delegate abstained from the vote

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Introduction

- Who we are: emerged as a distinct people in the 18th and 19th centuries
- Homeland of the Métis: Eastern Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Western British Columbia, parts of the North West Territories and northern United States
- We have Aboriginal title
- Government of Canada tried to extinguish our title
- Section 35 of *Canadian Constitution*, 1982, affirmed our rights

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Introduction

- **Who are the Métis?** “Métis means a person who self-identifies, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry and who is accepted by the Métis Nation”, definition adopted by the Métis National Council 2002
- **What is a Constitution?** A constitution is a set of values, principles and rules that a Nation uses to govern itself.
- A Constitution sets up the basic structure of government. It identifies what offices exist, roles, powers and responsibilities and how leaders are chosen.
- A Constitution may also prescribe how disputes are handled.
- Legislation that flows from a Constitution must be consistent with the Constitution.



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History

- Some history of Métis political representation throughout the decades:
 - 1931-32 Half-breeds of Saskatchewan formed by Regina Métis and in 1937 became the Saskatchewan Metis Society
 - Mid 1960s, Métis Society of Saskatchewan (MSS) was formed and represented Métis in southern and central Saskatchewan
 - Métis Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) represented northern Métis and non-status Indians.
 - 1967 MSS and MAS amalgamated and used MSS as the name
 - They then became the Association of Métis and non-status Indians and in 1988 returned to the Métis Society of Saskatchewan.
 - In 1993 Métis Nation Saskatchewan was established and a Constitution adopted.
 - In 2018, the *Framework Agreement*, and in 2019, the *Core Governance Agreement*, were signed which recognizes MN-S as a Nation with the inherent right to self-government and which sets up a Rights Table.

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The logo for 'VOICE OF THE PEOPLE' features the words 'VOICE', 'OF THE', and 'PEOPLE' stacked vertically in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The word 'PEOPLE' is significantly larger and positioned at the bottom of the stack.

Governance

- **Related Legislation:** *The Métis Act; The Citizenship Act; The Regional Boundaries Act; The Senate Act, The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Act; The Wildlife and Conservation Act.*
- **Governance Structure:** 12 elected officials from each of 12 regions; local presidents; an executive consisting of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, a Women’s representative and a Youth Representative.
- **Democratic Process:** Governance is based on the ballot box system.

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Métis Core Values and Principles
Laws of St. Laurent, and
Laws of the Buffalo Hunt

- Métis Core Values and Principles - what are they?
- Looking to our history for guidance: Laws of the Buffalo Hunt and Leadership of Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont, Laws of St. Laurent.
- March 19th, 1885, Louis Riel declared a second provisional government at Batoche, Saskatchewan
- Their laws were detailed and demanded discipline, accountability and solidarity with leadership

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Questions to Think About and Discuss

1. How well does our current governing system work?
Are there suggestions for how we can make it work better?
2. What are the legislative tools we need to achieve our goals?
3. What should the role of elected representatives, the Provincial Métis Council, the Executive, Elders and the Senate be?
4. What are the elements of the current Constitution that are important to keep?
5. Should we say more about the responsibilities, accountabilities and rights of both the Métis Government and of Métis Citizens?
6. How well does the constitution reflect traditional practices and ideas? Are there others we want to include as part of reform?

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Questions to Think About and Discuss

- 12. Should the definition of Métis be amended for the purposes of voting and participating in programs that the Citizen be registered with MN-S?
- 13. What is the role of the General Assembly? Should it remain the same?



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What Have We Heard So Far?

- Clear Drafting
- Dispute Resolution: Committee to review the jurisdiction of a Judiciary
- Role of Elders and the Senate
- Accountability and Transparency
- Any other areas you think are important?
- Let us know how you want to be kept involved.
- Send us your thoughts:
ismrd49@gmail.com or **306-501-3293**

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Marsi. Thank you.

Your comments and input are valuable!



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