



Winnipeg Region

Winnipeg Métis Association Inc.
4th Floor - 200 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A8
Phone: 204-586-5716
Email: wpregion@mmf.mb.ca

Winnipeg Métis Association - 2025 Annual Regional Meeting Minutes
Assiniboine Downs – 3975 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 2E9
Date: September 6, 2025 - Meeting Called to Order: 9:15am

Opening Prayer: Elder Shirley Langan

1.0 – Attendance

<u>Vice-President and Regional Directors:</u>	<u>Cabinet:</u>
1. Vice-President Andrew Carrier	1. President David Chartrand
2. Regional Director JoAnne Remillard	2. Minister Anita Campbell
3. Regional Director David Beaudin	3. Minister Denise Thomas
	4. Minister Judy Mayer
	5. Minister Alfred Anderson
	6. Minister Mona Buors
	7. Minister Marielle Gauthier

<u>Roll Call of Locals:</u>	
1. Bison	2. Bosco
3. Conseil Elzéar-Goulet	4. Infinity
5. Keenleyside	6. Kinew Métis Council
7. Liberty	8. Lii Michif Otipemisiwak 2SLGBTQ+ & Allies
9. Métis Elders and Youth Council	10. New Horizons
11. Prairie Buffalo	12. Redboine
13. Red River	14. Seven Oaks Métis Council
15. St. Norbert Parish La-Barrière Métis Council	16. Two Spirit Michif
17. Winnipeg North	18. Winnipeg West

Note: Heritage Proud Local Executives and Citizens were absent from the meeting.

<u>Departments and Affiliates:</u>	
1. Central Registry Office	2. Chief Electoral Office
3. Culture and Heritage	4. Early Learning and Child Care
5. Economic and Community Development	6. Energy, Infrastructure, and Resource Management
7. Engagement and Consultation	8. ESGS Procurement
9. Health and Wellness	10. Housing and Property Management
11. Human Resources	12. Information and Technology
13. Infinity Women Secretariat	14. Louis Riel Capital Corporation
15. Louis Riel College	16. Louis Riel Institute
17. Métis CFS Authority	18. Métis Employment and Training



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Departments and Affiliates – Continuation:

1. Métis Justice Institute	2. Michif Languages
3. National Heritage Centre	4. Pemmican Publications
5. Provincial Education	6. Red River Métis Business Development Corporation
7. Red River Métis Community Resource Department	

Special Guests:

1. Provincial Minister Bernadette Smith
2. Adrienne Carriere – Infinity Women Secretariat – Board of Director for Winnipeg Region
3. Mr. David Gray – Chief Electoral Officer
4. Mr. Terryl Luhowy - MNP- Financial Report

Regrets Received:

1. Minister Leah LaPlante	2. Minister Julyda Lagimodiere
3. Minister Francis Chartrand	4. Minister Will Goodon
5. Minister Joan Ledoux	6. Minister Richard Genaille
7. Minister Mark Parenteau	8. Associate Minister Mildred Dorian
9. Claire Riddle, former Vice-President and Regional Director of the Winnipeg Region	10. Christian Dandeneau – Conseil Elzéar-Goulet Local
11. Miguel Desrosier – Conseil Elzéar-Goulet Local	12. Pascale Hutton – Conseil Elzéar-Goulet Local
13. Greg Page – Keenleyside Local	14. Luc Philippot – Keenleyside Local
15. Brendan Butler – Prairie Buffalo Local	16. Braeden Yurkiw – Prairie Buffalo Local
17. Ronald Poirier – Liberty Local	18. Lucy Fowler – Two-Spirit Michif Local
19. MEDOCare	20. Red River Métis Veterans
21. Residential and Day Schools and Sixties Scoop	

Quorum Met – Yes



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2.0 – Appointment of Chairperson and Co-Chairpersons

Motion #01-09-06

Motion to appoint Andrew Carrier as Chairperson and David Beaudin and JoAnne Remillard as Co-Chairs.

Moved by: Tiffany Evans – Winnipeg West Local
Seconded by: Lesley Varga – Métis Elders and Youth Local
Motion: Carried

3.0 – Agenda

Reading of Agenda by the Chairperson.

1. Amendments were made as follows:
 - a. The Regional Youth Advisory Committee was removed as Minister Genaille was not present.

Motion #02-09-06

To accept the Meeting Agenda as presented with amendment as discussed.

Moved by: Raymond Harborne – Red River Local
Seconded by: April Dale – Winnipeg West Local
Motion: Carried

4.0 – Previous Minutes

Previous meeting minutes dated June 9, 2024, were read by the Minister JoAnne Remillard.

Motion #03-09-06

Motion to accept the June 9, 2024, minutes as read with two amendments as discussed.

Moved by: Heather Johnston – Winnipeg North Local
Seconded by: Melanie Lalonde – Seven Oaks Métis Council
Motion: Carried

5.0 – Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS)

Spokeswoman Anita Campbell

1. The IWS Annual Regional Meeting will be held on September 13, 2025 at the Assiniboine Downs and are expecting 650-700 people
2. There will be a mini market featuring 30 Red River Métis women owned businesses.



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3. The meeting will be held in a hybrid style; virtually and in-person.
4. We have 2484 members in total and new members are registering everyday.
5. Transitional Housing is being built in the Interlake Region. IWS secured all the funding to build and operate from the Federal, Provincial, and Red River Métis Governments. They will be hiring approximately 15 staff for that facility, and they expect to open it in April 2026.
 - a. As the facility will be fully secured IWS is looking at running a Security Guard training program for women. IWS will be partnering with Métis Employment and Training.
6. Michif AI – Her name is Infinity. IWS has chosen the Southern Michif Language and they received all of their information from the Michif Language Department. It is now in the testing phase. The curriculum is built and is now being tested. Once testing is completed, women will be invited to take the course.
7. Gals Who Garden Program is a new program to IWS. There were 100 garden boxes and the seeds needed to start were sent out.
8. IWS will be completing the first ever Red River Métis Matriarchs Cookbook. Women will provide a photo and their story along with their recipe to be part of the cookbook. IWS will partner with Pemmican Publications to assist with the publishing of the cookbook.
9. Gender-based Violence, Family Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Cybersecurity Training is ongoing. Following a survey completed by IWS, physical violence has gone down but emotional violence has gone up. Financial abuse is still the top 4, amongst women.
10. Wellness boxes will be sent out again for a few of those who are completing the surveys.
11. Healthy Relationships program will be hosted with the youth. Funding is through Public Health Agency of Canada.
12. Looking at raising the Local Capacity Grant for Locals from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
13. IWS gives donations to Locals that are fundraising and doing events, please reach out to request this.

Motion #04-09-06

Motion to accept the Infinity Women Secretariat, Spokeswoman Anita Campbell's report read by Adrienne Carriere.

Moved by: Tiffany Evans – Winnipeg West Local
Seconded by: Angie Antonio – Keenleyside Local
Motion: Carried

6.0 – MMF Presidential Greetings

President David Chartrand

1. It was noted that Minister JoAnne Remillard has recently been appointed as the new Minister of Education.
2. Discussion took place regarding the ongoing support the MMF provides to post-secondary students.
3. The meeting reviewed MMF housing supports, including home purchases and renovation projects.



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4. President Chartrand explained his decision to decline an invitation to a recent meeting with Prime Minister Mark Carney due to the inclusion of the Métis National Council (MNC).
 - a. Background was shared on the trial and lawsuit between MNC and MMF.
 - b. Following this, the Prime Minister invited President Chartrand to a private meeting in Ottawa, which was reported to have gone very well.
5. A meeting was held with Minister Aldi, during which it was confirmed that MMF's Treaty will be introduced.
6. A meeting with the Bloc Québécois was confirmed, and they have stated they will support the MMF Treaty.
7. Negotiations regarding MMF Land Claims were introduced with the Prime Minister, emphasizing the long-term importance for future generations.
8. Discussion focused on the hard work of MMF Locals and the powers they hold.
9. Work is underway on a Local Bylaw to clearly outline rules, responsibilities, and authorities for Locals.
10. The 2016 Steel Frame Partnership signed in China was discussed.
 - a. To date, 12 steel-frame houses have been built, with two additional homes currently under construction in Russell, Manitoba.
 - b. It was noted that relationships with China have shifted due to Canada–U.S. relations and U.S.–China relations.
11. An agreement was signed with the Southern Chiefs Organization (SCO) to explore future economic opportunities.
12. A summit with SCO is scheduled for September 20, 2025, which was identified as essential given ongoing political tensions, including concerns related to Donald Trump.
13. It was noted that Individual Youth Sponsorship programs were cut by Canada.
14. Discussion took place on the current economy and the importance of forward-looking planning.
15. The role of the MMF in responding to the Manitoba wildfires this summer was reviewed.
16. The Dakotas have filed 12 lawsuits against MMF, claiming MMF does not have the authority to make agreements with Hydro or the Province regarding the land.
17. A historical overview was shared noting that in 1996, MMF was \$750,000 in debt and bankrupt, contrasted with the organization's strong position today.
18. Discussion took place regarding the Roxy Lanes construction project, which was temporarily halted due to the presence of Chimney Swift birds.
 - a. Construction was paused to ensure the birds could be safely relocated to a temporary chimney, in compliance with environmental protection requirements.
 - a. Once the birds were safely moved, construction was able to proceed.
19. Discussion took place on how the MMF is working to integrate the French language into its operations and into post-secondary support programs.
 - a. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of financial support from Canada to adequately incorporate French language services within MMF operations.
20. Discussion focused on the lack of Indigenous Support Services at the University of St. Boniface.
 - a. It was noted that there is currently no Métis Inclusion Coordinator, highlighting a gap in support for Métis students on campus.



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21. Discussion took place regarding the protection and future of the Port of Churchill.

Motion #05-09-06

Motion to accept President Chartrand's Report.

Moved by: Kat Patenaude – Winnipeg North Local

Seconded by: Esther Ducharme – Redboine Local

Motion: Carried

7.0 – Greetings from Premier Wab Kinew

Minister Bernadette Smith on behalf of Premier Wab Kinew

1. Greetings were extended on behalf of the Premier and the Manitoba Legislature, emphasizing support for the Red River Métis.
2. The Legislature will meet with the federal government next week.
3. Housing was highlighted as a major topic, both federally and provincially, and will be included in the Federal-Provincial-Territorial meeting.
4. It was noted that there is an urgent need for housing for seniors and youth.
5. President Chartrand emphasized the importance of urban Indigenous housing and unlocking associated funding.
6. Ongoing partnerships with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) were discussed.
 - a. Example: Affinity Women's transitional housing was announced recently.
 - b. A formal agreement with the housing department was highlighted, with \$3 million allocated over three years for joint projects.
 - c. Future collaborative projects are planned to continue strengthening housing initiatives.
7. Acknowledgment was given for the pioneering work of the MMF, especially in serving seniors and community members.
 - a. Personal recognition was shared regarding collaboration with the late Al Desjarlais, who supported community events through catering services.

Lunch Break – Cheque Distribution to Local Executives

8.0 – Vice-President and Regional Executive Report

Vice-President Andrew Carrier Report

1. The Regional Executive reported attending numerous Local meetings and events, reflecting active engagement with the community.
2. Growth is being observed across Winnipeg Region Locals, indicating strong community participation and ongoing commitment.
3. The MMF has received and processed 2,834 newly registered citizens.



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- a. On average, 220 citizens complete registration per month.
- b. The total registered in the Winnipeg region currently stands at over 24,772.
- c. Of these, 3,295 are Beyond Borders, including 273 residing outside of Canada.
4. Every Local meet with citizens both within Winnipeg and Beyond Borders, maintaining strong connections.
 - a. The Infinity Local presented a proposal supported by a healthy group of members, formally welcomed as part of ongoing local engagement.
 - b. 15 locals are currently active, with efforts ongoing to ensure all meet the constitutional requirement of four meetings per year.
5. The Minister highlighted responsibility for four portfolios:
 - a. Riel House National Historic Site:
 - i. Visitors to the Riel House met with Historically dressed Red River Métis Interpreters, immersed in various cultural programming, connecting with the typical lifestyle from the late 1800's.
 - ii. He thanked everyone for coming out to the Riel House and participate in the various cultural events, such as:
 - Métis jigging, beading and sash weaving.
 - Bannock and butter making.
 - Guided tours of the Riel family home.
 - The annual Corn Roast, 357 participants.
 - iii. Welcoming 9 schools and over 1887 visitors to the Riel House from June to August 2025.
 - iv. Note: He thanked the Louis Riel Institutes for the ongoing support in the administration and support to the Riel House.
 - b. French and Michif Language Services:
 - i. No government funding has been received for French language translation and service delivery.
 - ii. Michif language initiatives received \$15 million over three years.
 - iii. Recognition was given to Spokeswomen Anita Campbell of Infinity Women for applying for Michif language funding to develop a Michif language app, called Infinity.
 - iv. Multiple groups are collaborating to advance Michif language initiatives.
 - c. Red River Métis Community Resource Department (RRMCRD):
 - i. RRMCRD services assisted the Manitoba's Northern community during the worst Wildfires in two waves: the first serving 20,000 individuals, the second 15,000.
 - ii. Individuals accessing services were provided dignity, clothing, entertainment, and other supports, including tickets for movies.
 - iii. Acknowledgment was given for the efforts and impact of RRMCRD, with praise for the team's dedication and service.
 - d. Residential and Day School Survivors:
 - i. Activities and Engagements include:
 - *Pekeywaytahihnan nutr zanfaan leur zispriiand (Bringing Our Children's Spirit Home) Research Project.*



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- Maamwi Bigiiwewininaanig Ginijaanishinaanig Council Meetings.
 - Commemoration Sub-Committee Meetings.
 - IRS Mapping Network Meeting (June 2024).
 - Advisory Committee Meetings (July, December).
 - Virtual Talking Circles (June, August, December).
 - Bringing Our Children Home Symposium (March 2025)
- ii. Achievements for the year include:
- Continued Survivor intakes and citizenship support.
 - Trauma-informed community engagement and referrals.
 - Strengthened partnerships for improved Survivor access.
 - Launched the Bridge to Justice Fund, increasing Survivor engagement by approximately 20%.
 - Delivered multiple Talking Circles and Kitchen Talk Tables - KTT across Manitoba.
 - Reviewed historical research and archival findings.
 - Advocated for systemic change and Métis Survivor rights.

Regional Director JoAnne Remillard Report

1. Minister Remillard reported that she was recently appointed as the Minister of Education for the MMF.
2. The Environment and Climate Change portfolio is dedicated to conserving and safeguarding the natural environment of the Métis homeland.
3. Programs advancing climate leadership, conservation education, youth programming, citizen science, and disaster preparedness include:
 - a. Stewards of the Homeland
 - b. Métis Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow
 - c. Métis Community-Based Monitoring
 - d. Indigenous Capacity Support Program
 - e. Indigenous Climate Leadership
4. Disaster Preparedness
 - a. Recent activities and highlights:
 - i. MMF Climate Symposium
 - ii. Ecosystem Integrity Assessments
 - iii. Pollinator and cultural workshops
 - iv. Youth survival camps
 - v. Citizen science events
 - vi. Traditional land use interviews
 - vii. Preparedness webinars
5. Emergency response during 2025 Manitoba wildfires:
 - a. Operated evacuation and donation centers
 - b. Provided shelter, resources, and assistance to Red River Métis citizens and other displaced Manitobans



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6. Emphasis on community participation and engagement through webinars, camps, and workshops

Regional Director David Beaudin Report.

1. Minister Beaudin is now the Associate Minister of Environment and Climate Change under Minister Marie Gauthier, while continuing as Minister of Agriculture.
2. Agriculture Portfolio Update:
 - a. The Ministry has been extremely active over the past 24 months with multiple seminars and events.
 - b. Upcoming event: Attending a dinner with Ministers of Agriculture across Canada, including Federal Ministers, to represent the Métis government and discuss the future vision for agriculture between Canada and the Métis Nation.
 - c. The Ministry represents the agricultural and agri-food interests of over 125,000 Métis citizens.
3. Food Security & Industry Updates:
 - a. Concern over rising food prices and potential impacts on food security due to tariffs.
 - b. Current communication with Ironhead Bison Ranch is ongoing; decisions pending based on the veterinarian's report.
4. Greenhouse & Gardening Projects:
 - a. Four greenhouses located on Silver Avenue near the airport:
 - b. Two belong to Winnipeg Region.
 - c. Two belong to Infinity Women.
 - d. Expected production: Over 500 pounds of vegetables.
 - e. Louis Riel Gardens are expected to produce 700 pounds of vegetables.

Motion #06-09-06

Motion to accept the Vice-President and Regional reports.

Moved by: **Gavin Forbes – Métis Elders and Youth Council**

Seconded by: **Alexina Nault – Winnipeg West Local**

Motion: **Carried**

9.0 –Local Advisory Committee (L.A.C) Selection:

Mr. David Gray – Chief Electoral Officer

1. Introduced the current seven L.A.C Board members.
2. Discussed the eligibility to become a L.A.C Board member and the selection process.
3. Kerry Smith discussed the responsibilities of the L.A.C.
4. Three positions are up for selection, two for a two-year term and one is for a one-year term:
 - a. Jordan Jackson
 - b. Kim Gray
 - c. Jennifer Ledoux
5. Floor opened for nominations:



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- a. Nominator: Dorothy Roketveksy – Redboine Council nominates Tamara Cardinal
 - i. Seconded by Sonja Stone – Two-Spirit Michif Local
 - b. Nominator: Kim Park – Kinew Métis Council nominates Daphne Hartman
 - i. Seconded by Tavia Nelson – Kinew Métis Council
 - c. Nominator: Marie LeClaire – Winnipeg West Local nominates Lavone Lesperance
 - i. Seconded by April Dale – Winnipeg West Local
 - d. Nominator: Les Varga – Métis Elders and Youth Council nominates Linda Schatkowsky
 - i. Seconded by Gavin Forest – Métis Elders and Youth Council
6. Tamara Cardinal, Daphne Hartman, Lavone Lesperance, and Linda Schatkowsky accepted the nominations.
7. A total of 154 votes were counted:
- a. Elected for a two-year term: Tamara Cardinal
 - b. Tie for the second two-year term between Linda Schatkowsky and Daphne Hartman
 - c. Discussion was had privately and Daphne Hartman will be taking the two-year term.
 - d. The one-year term went to Linda Schatkowsky.

Motion #07-09-06

Motion to accept the persons that David Gray appointed to act as election officials.

Moved by: Arlene Lalonde – Seven Oaks Métis Council
Seconded by: Kat Patenaude – Winnipeg North Local
Motion: Carried

10.0 – Financial Report

The 2024-2025 Notice to Reader covering WMA and WMA Land Holdings was reviewed by MNP Terryl Luhowy followed by a lengthy question-and-answer period.

Terryl Luhowy presented the March 31, 2025, financial statement. This is a consolidated statement which contains both WMA as well as its subsidiary Land Holdings Inc. Companies. These are a compilation statement and have not been audited.

Motion #8-09-06

Motion to accept the 2024-2025 Notice to Reader (NTR) report presented by Terryl Luhowy.

Moved by: Alexina Nault – Winnipeg West Local
Seconded by: Yvette Spence – Bosco Local
Motion: Carried

Appointment of Auditor for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.



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Motion #9-09-06

Motion to appoint the 2025-2026 Auditor, MNP, for the Winnipeg Region.

Moved by: Yvette Spence – Bosco Local
Seconded by: May Hupe – Conseil Elzéar-Goulet Local
Motion: Carried

11.0 – Local Resolutions

Mr. David Gray – Chief Electoral Officer

Reviewed and discussed resolutions submitted by the Locals:

Motion #10-09-06

Motion to approve resolution “Away la paarantii kayaash ooschi - Honouring The Ancestors”.

Moved by: Justin Rodger - Winnipeg North Local
Seconded by: Kat Patenaude – Winnipeg North Local
Resolution: Carried with one abstention*

Motion #11-09-06

Motion to approve resolution “Support for Affordable Access to Sports and Recreation for Red River Métis Youth”.

Moved by: Season Kirkwood – Lii Michif Otipemisiwak 2SLGBTQ+ & Allies Local
Seconded by: Albert Beck – Lii Michif Otipemisiwak 2SLGBTQ+ & Allies Local
Resolution: Carried

* The above two resolutions are approved by the Winnipeg Region to go forward to the MMF’s Annual General Assembly.

12.0 – MMF Constitution Resolutions Report

Minister Judy Mayer

1. Discussed the three Constitutional Resolutions that were presented last year and will be voted on at the MMF AGA in October 2025.
 - a. To Amend the MMF Constitution and Election By-Law with Respect to Article IX 4.
 - i. Moved By: Minister Judy Mayer
 - ii. Seconded By: Minister Andrew Carrier
 - b. To Amend the MMF Constitution and Election By-Law with Respect to Article IX 5.
 - i. Moved By: Minister Judy Mayer
 - ii. Seconded By: Minister Jack Park
 - c. To Amend the MMF Constitution and Election By-Law with Respect to Article IX 6.
 - i. Moved By: Minister Judy Mayer



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- ii. Seconded By: Minister Julyda Lagimodiere
- 2. Discussed one Constitutional Resolution that is being presented for the first time and that was sent to all Local Executives on September 4, 2025.
 - a. To Amend the MMF Constitution with Respect to the Naming of Red River Métis Assemblies
 - i. Moved By: Minister Denise Thomas
 - ii. Seconded By: Minister Julyda Lagimodiere

Motion #12-09-06

Motion to accept Minister Mayer's report on the Constitutional Resolutions.

Moved by: Season Kirkwood – Lii Michif Otipemisiwak 2SLGBTQ+ & Allies Local

Seconded by: Arlene Lalonde – Seven Oaks Métis Council

Motion: Carried

13.0 – Sixties Scoop Report

Minister Denise Thomas

1. The Minister shared its ongoing work to address the injustices faced by Red River Metis citizens impacted by the Sixties Scoop, with a focus on support, healing, and reconciliation.
2. The department is committed to acknowledging this painful chapter in Métis history and ensuring that survivors and their families receive the resources, recognition, and dignity they deserve.
3. The department's mission is to provide support, healing, and advocacy for survivors and their families.
4. Ongoing commitments include:
 - a. Raising awareness about the Sixties Scoop
 - b. Advancing reconciliation efforts related to the sisters in Care / Scoop experience, restoring dignity and justice
5. Guided by the Mandate Letter of President Chartrand, survivor voices remain central to all departmental work.
6. Bridge to Justice Fund Update:
 - a. At last year's Annual General Assembly, President Chartrand announced the launch of the Bridge to Justice Fund.
 - b. Through this initiative, the Manitoba Metis Federation committed \$2 million to provide advance payments in anticipation of a future settlement with the Government of Canada.
 - c. Eligibility criteria for the program were discussed.
 - d. This initiative provides immediate financial relief while survivors await the outcome of Government of Canada negotiations or class action proceedings.
 - e. In Winnipeg alone, 78 survivors have received the \$5,000 payment.



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Motion #13-09-06

Motion to accept the joint Sixties Scoop Report presented by Minister Denise Thomas.

Moved by: Tiffany Evans – Winnipeg West Local

Seconded by: Paul Groleau - Liberty Local

Motion: Carried

14.0 – Local Executive Reports

Locals submitted their reports that were presented in the ARM Book on pages 62 to 83 here from the following Locals:

1. Bison Local
2. Kinew Métis Council
3. Liberty Local
4. Lii Michif Otipemisiwak 2SLGBTQ+ and Allies Local
5. Métis Elders and Youth Local
6. New Horizons Local
7. Prairie Buffalo Local
8. Seven Oaks Métis Council
9. Two Spirit Michif Local
10. Winnipeg West Local

Motion #14-09-06

Motion to accept the Local Executive Reports as presented in the ARM Booklet.

Moved by: Lesley Varga – Métis Elders and Youth Local

Seconded by: Alexina Nault – Winnipeg West Local

Motion: Carried – with one opposed

Attendance, 50/50 and Silent Auction Draws

50/50 - \$1,172.00 total - \$586.00 – Won by Season Kirkwood

Silent Auction Raised \$3,520.50

Closing Prayer by Elder Shirley Langan

Motion #15-09-06

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Lisa Brinkworth – Seven Oaks Métis Council

Seconded by: Linda Schatkowsky – Métis Elders & Youth Council

Motion: Carried