

**MISSISSAUGAS OF THE CREDIT FIRST NATION
LIFELONG LEARNING & NATION WELL-BEING COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC MINUTES
Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

Start 9:18 am

Finish 3:50 pm

Chief

R. Stacey Laforme

Councillor

Erma Ferrell

Councillor

Ashley Sault (via Zoom)

Councillor

Veronica King-Jamieson (Away on other Council Business)

Councillor/Chair

Andrea King

Councillor

Fawn Sault

Councillor

Kelly LaForme (via Zoom)

Councillor

Claire Sault

A/COO – Ex. Dir. of Operations

Kerri King

Ex. Dir of Intergov. Affairs

Katelyn LaForme

Ex. Dir. of Finance/HR

Alisha Anderson

Recorder

Charlotte Smith

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – OPEN MEETING

The LSK Drum Group performed some opening songs. Chair/Councillor Andrea King opened the meeting at 9:18 am. Councillor Erma Ferrell will be leaving for another meeting at 10:45 am.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – REVIEW AND ACCEPT AGENDA & DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

MOTION NO. 1

MOVED BY ERMA FERRELL

SECONDED BY CLAIRE SAULT

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Education & Nation Well-Being Council accepts the Agenda with the following additions and deletion:

- Agenda Item No. 5a) – Further Discussion on the Constitution (CS);
- Agenda Item No. 5b) – Training for Gimaa and Council and OMT;
- Agenda Item No. 5c) – Senate Questions (Director of Intergovernmental Affairs);
- Agenda Item No. 7a) – In-Camera Item (Director of Lifelong Learning);
- Agenda Item No. 13 – Deferred to next Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council Meeting dated Tuesday, May 2, 2023;
- Agenda Item No. 14a) – In-Camera Item;
- Agenda Item No. 14b) - Deferred to next Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council Meeting dated Tuesday, May 2, 2023;
- Agenda Item No. 14c) – In-Camera Item;
- Agenda Item No. 14d) – In-Camera Item.

Carried

There were no Conflicts of Interest on any of the Agenda Items.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3a) – REVIEW & ACCEPT PUBLIC MINUTES OF LIFELONG LEARNING & NATION WELL-BEING COUNCIL MEETING DATED TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023

MOTION NO. 2

MOVED BY GIMAA STACEY LAFORME

SECONDED BY ASHLEY SAULT

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Lifelong Learning & Nation Well-Being Council accepts the Public Minutes of Lifelong Learning & Nation Well-Being Council dated Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

Carried

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3b) – REVIEW & ACCEPT IN-CAMERA MINUTES OF LIFELONG LEARNING & NATION WELL-BEING COUNCIL MEETING DATED TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023

This item will be approved when we get to the In-Camera section of today's meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3c) – FYI – SUMMARY OF MOTIONS & DIRECTIONS FROM INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING DATED TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022

This is an FYI for Gimaa and Council.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Governance Director (Margaret Sault) in at 9:15 am.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5a) – FURTHER DISCUSSION ON MCFN CONSTITUTION

Director of Governance (Margaret Sault) would like Gimaa and Council to approve/acknowledge the results of the April 22, 2023 Constitution Ratification.

Below is some background information:

- In September 2018, Council agreed to work on the development of the MCFN Constitution;
- August 7, 2020 the Constitution Sub-Committee was mandated to carry out this task under Pillar 7 Lead (Councillor Julie Laforme);
- Postings went out for interested MCFN Members to sit on this Committee;
- September 7, 2020, Council approved the Constitution Committee which was made up of three Youths, one Knowledge Keeper, Pillar 7 Lead and LMR Director;
- The Sub-Committee Members were Youths Austin Sault, Tomasita LaForme and Clarice King, Knowledge Keeper Harry LaForme, LMR Director and Pillar 7 Lead Julie Laforme;
- The first meeting of the Sub-Committee was held in September 2021; unfortunately, one Youth had to resign as their school workload was too heavy;
- July 2022, a finished draft went to Council where comments and changes were made;

- A number of engagement sessions were held via zoom and in-person;
- January 2023, Council appointed the Ratification Officer and set April 22, 2023 as the day of the vote for the Constitution Ratification;
- Since MCFN does not have the Approval Law approved, the Indian Referendum, Election Procedures and Indian Act were used as guidelines;
- The Indian Referendum Regulations does not address the method of determining the results, the Elections and Indian Act says a majority of votes of the electors;
- The vote has taken place and below are the results:

RATIFICATION VOTE DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

TOTAL BALLOT TALLY PER PHYSICAL COUNT	235
VALID BALLOTS	215
SPOILED BALLOTS	5
REJECTED BALLOTS	15
UNUSED BALLOTS	115
 TOTAL BALLOT TALLY	 350

Councillor CS stated that there was a lot of negative feedback. The vote should have been 50% + 1. She added that it was a very low count for such a major decision. There is a lot of strife on the Facebook Page. Executive Director of Operations answered that it is not all negative on Facebook.

Executive Director of Intergovernmental Affairs stated that it was 50% + 1 of the voter turnout. She reached out to Alex Monem (Legal Counsel) who said it is a minor occurrence.

Governance Director (Margaret Sault) informed that we have always went beyond the norm to inform the MCFN Membership, and we have done our due diligence.

Councillor FS questioned why we are not hearing from anyone who participated. Her biggest concern is the small number who voted and made this major decision.

Executive Director of Intergovernmental Affairs stated that she gets very offended when people say we do nothing. She added that the next step is the Approval Law.

Councillor EF noted that people say it is not easy to find things on the MCFN Website. She further stated that she would like to hear the Chief say something. She also reiterated that this term of Council was acclimated, not voted in.

Councillor AS informed that MCFN Members who live on-reserve were not sent the voting package, and off-reserve were. She stated that she has no issue with the Constitution.

Councillor AK questioned if we are practicing the seven Grandfather Teachings. She also stated that we should not overturn this decision.

Executive Director of Intergovernmental Affairs pointed out that she will collect all the comments and make up a list.

Gimaa Stacey informed that we should have addressed the acclamation. He also believes that this First Nation is very divided on politics, however, it would be political suicide to overturn this decision.

Councillor EF noted that Gimaa and Council have put by-laws in place that we cannot enforce.

Executive Director of Operations stated that this is a valid vote, and it has been validly ratified.

Councillor KL stated that he would be upset if this vote is overturned.

Governance Director stated that we have to educate people even more. We sent out 1,045 mail out packages. The Constitution is only the first step. We can learn from this and go on.

Councillor CS believes that it will be political suicide if we do not overturn this vote.

Nothing will be posted until next week after there has been further discussion and approval.

MOTION NO. 3

MOVED BY GIMAA STACEY LAFORME

SECONDED BY KELLY LAFORME

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Education & Nation Well-Being Council agrees to approve the Mississaugas of the Credit Constitution Ratification Report as presented.

Carried

Opposed: Councillor Claire Sault – There were too few MCFN Members making a major decision for the First Nation; Councillor Erma Ferrell – The vote should have been postponed as there are very serious concerns that need further discussion.

2nd Reading was not allowed.

DIRECTION NO. 1

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Education & Nation Well-Being Council directs the Executive Director of Intergovernmental Affairs to draft a Statement regarding the vote of the MCFN Constitution.

This item will come back to the next Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council Meeting dated Tuesday, May 2, 2023 for further discussion and approval.

MOTION NO. 4

MOVED BY CLAIRE SAULT

SECONDED BY ERMA FERRELL

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Education & Nation Well-Being Council agrees to suspend the resulting vote of the MCFN Constitution on Saturday, April 22, 2023 due to lack of sufficient support, until more consultation and communication to MCFN Members takes place, and a subsequent vote can be rescheduled.

Opposed: Gimaa Stacey Laforme, Councillors Kelly LaForme, Fawn Sault and Ashley Sault

Motion is Defeated.

Councillor Erma Ferrell out at 10:45 am to attend another meeting.

This item will come back to the next Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council Meeting dated Tuesday, May 2, 2023 for further discussion and approval.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5b) – TRAINING FOR GIMAA & COUNCIL AND OMT

Councillors Andrea King, Fawn Sault and Ashley Sault will attend the training scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

MOTION NO. 5

MOVED BY GIMAA STACEY LAFORME

SECONDED BY FAWN SAULT

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Education & Nation Well-Being Council moved In-Camera at 11:10 am.

Carried