

MISSISSAUGAS OF THE CREDIT FIRST NATION
FINANCIAL PLANNING & FISCAL OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
PUBLIC MINUTES
Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Start: 10:07 am

Finish: 3:35 pm

Gimaa (Chief) Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor/Chair
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Recording Officer
Ex. Dir. of Operations
Ex. Dir. of Intergovernmental Affairs
Ex. Dir. of Finance/HR

R. Stacey Laforme
Kelly LaForme
Veronica King-Jamieson
Erma Ferrell
Andrea King
Ashley Sault
Fawn Sault (Vacation)
Claire Sault (via Zoom)
Charlotte Smith
Kerri King
Katelyn LaForme
Alisha Anderson (Excused)

Gimaa and Council attended the Opening Ceremony of the school year at Lloyd S. King Elementary School from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – OPEN MEETING

Chair/Councillor Erma Ferrell opened the meeting at 10:07 am.

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

MOTION NO. 1

MOVED BY GIMAA STACEY LAFORME SECONDED BY VERONICA KING-JAMIESON
 That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council accepts the Agenda with the following additions:

- Agenda Item No. 16a) – Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) (KK);
- Agenda Item No. 16b) – Caring Together Week Update (KK);
- Agenda Item No. 16c) – Money In, Money Out (EF).

Carried

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – REVIEW AND ACCEPT THE PUBLIC MINUTES OF FINANCIAL PLANNING & FISCAL OVERSIGHT COUNCIL MEETING DATED TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023

MOTION NO. 2

MOVED BY VERONICA KING-JAMIESON

SECONDED BY ANDREA KING

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council accepts the Public Minutes of Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council Meeting dated Tuesday, August 1, 2023.

Carried

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3a) – FYI - SUMMARY OF MOTIONS/DIRECTIONS FROM FINANCIAL PLANNING & FISCAL OVERSIGHT COUNCIL MEETING DATED TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023

This is an FYI for Gimaa and Council.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCIL MINUTES

FYI - 4.1 – Letter dated July 31, 2023, signed by Gimaa Stacey Laforme and sent to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City regarding the repatriation of Rev. Peter Jones' artifacts.

Director of Lifelong Learning zoomed in at 10:40 am.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDERS FOR LSK EXPANSION – TIME SENSITIVE REQUEST (DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING)

Director of Lifelong Learning noted in her Briefing Note that she is seeking Chief and Council approval for Change Orders #042R1 and #062.

There were changes made to the millwork, mechanical and electrical. These changes required change orders to be signed as they incur additional costs. These changes were approved by Colliers within the budget.

As with many large projects of this size changes to the original drawings are necessary to ensure the design is meeting the needs of the intended space. Part of the cost of the change orders can be covered within the current furnishings budget remaining for child care as well as through the contingency funding which was noted by Colliers for PCO #042R1 via email.

MOTION NO. 3

MOVED BY GIMAA STACEY LAFORME SECONDED BY VERONICA KING-JAMIESON

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council approves the signing of the Change Orders #042R1 in the amount of \$82,057.74 (Eighty-Two Thousand Fifty-Seven Dollars and Seventy-Four Cents) and #62 in the amount of \$69,930.00 (Sixty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Dollars and Zero Cents) for a total of \$151,987.74 (One Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars & Seventy-Four Cents). This item is regarding the LSK Expansion Project.

Carried

2nd Reading Waived

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – BRIEFING NOTE – CHIEFS OF ONTARIO (COO) RELATIONSHIP WITH ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS (AFN) ON EDUCATION (DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING)

Director of Lifelong Learning noted that according to the Briefing Note from the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), they (COO) have a very strained relationship with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). This Briefing Note (from COO) provides an update on the status of the relationship between COO and the AFN on education.

At the AFN SCA in April 2023, the issue of the COO relationship with the AFN on Education was raised. This resulted in a meeting between COO and the AFN CCoE on June 26, 2023 to discuss the recommended revisions to the NIEC and CCoE Terms of Reference.

Due to the unresolved issue, COO submitted a resolution on the recommended revisions to the NIEC and CCoE Terms of Reference at the AFN AGA in July 2023. Resolution 57/2023 National Unity on Education passed with one noted opposition.

Gimaa Stacey noted that Ontario gets a share of the dollars and gives it all to the AFN.

DIRECTION NO. 1

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council directs Gimaa Stacey Laforme to meet with the Executive Director of Intergovernmental Affairs to discuss the issue of the strained relationships with Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Assembly of First Nations (AFN), and further, discuss the issue of AFN getting all the dollars. This report will be brought back to the Intergovernmental Relations Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 for further discussion.

Gimaa and Council acknowledged the above as information.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RETREAT FOR EARLY YEARS STAFF (DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING)

Director of Lifelong Learning noted that she is seeking Chief and Council to approve of the location and expenditure of a Professional Development retreat for the Early Years staff.

The Early Years division of the Department of Lifelong Learning participates in up to 8 approved Professional Development (PD) opportunities each fiscal.

The Professional Development needs of our Early Years staff differ from many of the available Professional Development opportunities in the mainstream as the MCFN staff delivers programming tailored to our Aaniishnaabe Community. Professional Development increases retention, builds credibility and confidence, re-energizes staff and improves efficiency for everyone who participates.

The Early Years Administrator and the leadership staff developed a proposal for a two-day Professional Development retreat in Niagara Falls on November 17th & 18th. There will be program closures on the 17th & 20th. The estimated cost for this event is approximately \$45,018.60 (forty-five thousand and eighteen dollars sixty cents). A contract to secure the conference venue is required to be signed by an authorized signer.

MOTION NO. 4

MOVED BY GIMAA STACEY LAFORME SECONDED BY VERONICA KING-JAMIESON
That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council approves the Professional Development Retreat for the EarlyON staff at Niagara Falls on November 17 and 18, 2023. We further approve of the expenditure in the approximate amount of \$45,018.60 (Forty-Five Thousand Eighteen Dollars and Sixty Cents). The finance verification form is included which approves of the expenditure allocation to department and account numbers 600720, 53100 – deferred revenue.

Carried
2nd Reading Waived

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 – MCFN BOARD OF LIFELONG LEARNING TERMS OF REFERENCE 2023 (DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING)

Director of Lifelong Learning is requesting approval of the Terms of Reference (TOR) 2023 for the MCFN Board of Education.

Since early 2023, the MCFN Board of Education has met many times with a view to revising the Terms of Reference. For ease of reference, yellow highlights are for additions and red strikeouts are for deletions. The Terms of Reference 2023 will serve as a guide under which the Board will operate and will outline the ways in which the Board agrees to work together to accomplish common goals. The initial Terms of Reference was created in 2019 and they have not been revised until this year. There has also been a significant change in the structure of the Board over the last year. In the Terms of Reference, we attempt to reflect the current lifelong learning needs of MCFN and the Department of Lifelong Learning. Within the TOR, we are seeking to clarify and elaborate the duties for the Board members going forward

We ask that Council approve the Terms of Reference 2023.

The MCFN Board of Education has recently revised their Terms of Reference including the name change to *Board of Lifelong Learning*. As noted, additions are in yellow highlight and deletions are in red strikeout.

There are some corrections that need to be made with regard to the CPIC on Page 11. Councillor VKJ will follow up with the Director of Lifelong Learning to review the document and bring it back to the Council Table.

DIRECTION NO. 2

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council directs the Executive Director of Operations to provide the Director of Lifelong Learning with all pertinent information regarding CPIC (see Page 11 of Draft Terms of Reference).

It is noted that the Director of Lifelong Learning, (when she brings this Terms of Reference back for approval) will bring back a clean copy.

Director of Lifelong Learning zoomed out at 11:00 am.

Georgina Villeneuve & Jeff Freketich from Peace Hills Trust zoomed in at 11:10 am.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 – PEACE HILLS TRUST TO PRESENT THE TORONTO PURCHASE TRUST INTERIM REPORT & 2ND QUARTER 2023 PERFORMANCE REPORT (GEORGINA VILLENEUVE & JEFF FREKETICH)

Georgina Villeneuve spoke first and noted that the Interim Report and the Performance Report are set up a bit differently than they usually have been. Georgina highlighted the Interim Report.

The net assets as at July 31, 2023 - \$106,739,818.00; Trust Capital as at July 31, 2023 - \$97,106,980.00; Annual Income Estimate for 2023 - \$4,315,384.00.

Georgina questioned if Gimaa and Council want all of the income, which is approximately \$5 Million.

Jeff went through the Performance Report part.

Gimaa stated that there is no comparison of the Managers in the way that this report is now set up. Jeff answered that he will produce that.

In the Commentary section Jeff noted the following:

Every three or four years, financial markets struggle and end up in negative territory. This is what happened in 2022. Inflation and rising interest rates gave investors great concern, and these, among other facts, helped to drive the market down by year-end.

Many of these negative factors were still present at the start of 2023. This caused many economists to project that 2023 would be another poor year for markets. There was much talk about whether we were in for a 'hard landing' (a recession), a 'soft landing' (an economic slowdown), or some combination of the two. The fact is that no one knew for sure what would happen.

Still, these fears caused many investors to avoid the market at the start of 2023, which was the wrong thing to do. No one can predict with any accuracy the ups and downs of the markets. If

you sell, and have your money in cash, when do you buy back into the market? Plus, by the time you buy back in, you may have missed an increase in market values.

Professional investment managers, like those working on your Trust, know that the best approach is to have a long-term outlook: buy good companies and hold them for the long term, letting them increase in value. They don't jump in and out of the market because they know it is impossible to get the timing right.

Once again, this long-term approach was the correct course of action. The gains the market made in the first half of 2023 would have been good results for an entire year, not just two quarters. As of June 30th, the Canadian market was up 5.7%, the US was up 14.3%, and international markets were up 9.2%. Bonds also performed well, gaining 3.1% for the period.

The increase in interest rates over the past year has helped bring inflation down, going from over 8% to around 4.3%. However, there is still work to be done, and interest rates will probably remain at relatively high rates for the next 12 to 18 months. Again, no one can be sure about these things.

What we do know for sure is that the long-term approach has worked this year and will continue to work in the future. One huge factor the Trust (and the Nation) has in its favor is that it will be around for a long time. This allows your investment team to focus on long-term results and not worry about short-term fluctuations that will continue to affect markets.

Georgina requested that Peace Hills Trust be present at the Community Meeting dated Saturday, November 25, 2023 to give the Community an update on the Toronto Purchase Trust. She has some great gifts that she would like to give out as prizes.

Georgina and Jeff were thanked for their presentation and zoomed out at 11:40 am.

MOTION NO. 5

MOVED BY ASHLEY SAULT

SECONDED BY ANDREA KING

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council accepts the Interim Report and the 2nd Quarter 2023 Performance Report from Peace Hills Trust regarding the Toronto Purchase Trust.

Carried

Council moved to Agenda Item No. 13.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 – ELECTIONS CANADA REQUEST (KK)

Executive Director of Operations noted that Elections Canada has reached out to seek ways to increase engagement in our Community.

MCFN historically has permitted both federal and provincial election officers into the Community to permit our Members the opportunity to vote, if they so chose. MCFN would post the information, but did not promote or encourage participation. It was left to each individual member to decide if they participated.

Betteanne Cadman, Returning Officer with Brant, reached out to arrange a meeting a few weeks ago for the purposes of discussing Elections Canada's initiatives.

DIRECTION NO. 3

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council directs the Executive Director of Operations to reach out to Betteanne M. Cadman Elections Canada and invite her to the next Intergovernmental Relations Council Meeting dated Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 – MOTION TO BE READ INTO MINUTES REGARDING 2023 ELECTORAL OFFICER APPOINTMENT (THIS MOTION WAS APPROVED VIA EMAIL)

It was noted that voting packages will be sent out to the MCFN Community. Also, a notice can be prepared giving the dates of nomination and voting and delivered with the Meals on Wheels Program.

MOTION NO. 6

MOVED BY FAWN SAULT

SECONDED BY CLAIRE SAULT

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council agrees to appoint Veronica McLeod as the Electoral Officer for the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation General Election, to be held December 9th, 2023. Funds in the amount of \$23,500.00 (Twenty-Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) to come from Administration Professional Fees, 56500-100000. A Band Council Resolution shall be signed immediately and submitted via email to Indigenous Affairs Canada, for Ministerial approval.

Carried

2nd Reading Waived

See BCR No. 334 - 2023-2024.

DIRECTION NO. 4

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council directs the Executive Director of Operations to follow up with any additional dollars that will be paid to the Electoral Officer in the case of adding mail out ballots for the Election.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15 – CHIEFS OF ONTARIO (COO) BUS RALLY (KK)

Executive Director of Operations noted that a Rally is being held on September 20th in Ottawa, protesting Bill C-35, also known as “An Act respecting the recognition of certain Métis governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, to give effect to treaties with those governments and to make consequential amendments to other Acts,” is expected to pass this fall.

Gimaa stated that this is a form of genocide and a human rights case.

It was agreed by Gimaa and Council that the posting of Bill C-53 would not be shared with the Community.

Council moved back to Agenda Item No. 12.

Adam LaForme and Audrey Rochette zoomed in at 12:50 pm.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)/McMASTER REPOSITORY (EF)

Councillor Erma Ferrell stated that the MCFN Artifacts Committee has met with Audrey Rochette and Scott Martin/Ph. D who is the Operations Manager at the Repository at McMaster University. Because MCFN does not have a proper place to store the artifacts, they will be stored at the Repository.

The attached Memorandum of Understanding is being presented to the MCFN Chief and Council to grant their approval to enter into the MOU with the McMaster Repository, to transfer the artifacts we have on site.

Audrey Rochette stated that this is just a temporary storage, and there is no cost to MCFN.

MOTION NO. 7

MOVED BY GIMAA STACEY LAFORME SECONDED BY VERONICA KING-JAMIESON
That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council approves the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Scott Martin/McMaster Repository, Hamilton, Ontario.

Carried
2nd Reading Waived

NOTE: The MCFN artifacts will be returned to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, when they (MCFN) have a proper facility for storing artifacts.

Adam LaForme and Audrey Rochette zoomed out at 1:00 pm.

Council moved back to Agenda Item No. 11.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 – REV. PETER JONES ARTIFACTS – UPDATE (EF)

Councillor EF noted in her Briefing Note that the Artifacts Committee has been discussing the repatriation of artifacts that belonged to Rev. Peter Jones.

During the week of August 28, 2023, Councillor EF received an email from the Registrar of the Atlantic Ave Museum Toronto, with an update on Rev Peter Jones' artifacts. She has been provided with a list of 24 additional items that were donated by Rev. Peter Jones' son Dr. Peter E. Jones, and donated to the Bureau of American Ethnology. These items were eventually submitted to the Smithsonian Institute in the United States.

Councillor EF has notified the Curator of the Atlantic Avenue Museum that she will support a letter she (Curator of Atlantic Avenue Museum) drafts to be sent to the Smithsonian and to recommend all items the Smithsonian owns that belonged to Rev. Peter Jones and gifted by Dr. Peter E. Jones, be repatriated to the MCFN and be held in Trust at the Atlantic Avenue

Museum. The end purposed plan is to house all items at one Museum in Toronto to be accompanied by lesson plans for workshops.

This Briefing Note from Councillor Erma Ferrell was accepted as information.

Council moved to Agenda Item No. 16a).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16a) – ONTARIO ELECTRICITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (OESP) INTAKE SESSION (KK)

Executive Director of Operations noted in her Briefing Note that she is seeking confirmation if MCFN wishes to engage with Ontario Native Welfare Administrators Association (ONWAA) in delivering an electricity workshop in the Community.

The MCFN Ontario Works office had navigated a previous OESP session when it first became available. I had the Recorder seek any information on why we didn't have ONWAA provide this previously, but we were unable to locate anything.

A representative from ONWAA has contacted MCFN to offer an Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) intake session. The program is being promoted in communities as many OESP credits have expired.

The OESP program saves low-income households money on their monthly hydro bill. At no expense to the Community, ONWAA would assist applicants with applying or re-applying to the program. In most cases applying only takes a few minutes, and all that is needed is a current residential hydro bill, and the names and birthdates of all household members.

The monthly credit (determined by the total household income, and number of household residents) can range anywhere from \$68.00 per month for a single person household to \$113.00 per month for a 7 person household.

To proceed, we (MCFN and ONWAA) need a mutually agreeable date, office space, and possibly internet service. I would designate our Ontario Works office to coordinate the intake session.

To note, our OW office has indicated that we have not had much success rate with members participating in the prior sessions, but ONWAA will provide promotional materials that could be shared as a means of raising awareness.

MOTION NO. 8

MOVED BY VERONICA KING-JAMIESON

SECONDED BY ANDREA KING

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council agrees to move forward with the Ontario Electricity Support Program intake session, to be coordinated between the Ontario Native Welfare Administrators Association (ONWAA) and the Ontario Works Office.

Carried

2nd Reading Waived

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16b) – CARING TOGETHER WEEK UPDATE (KK)

See below, the update for Caring Together – Friday, September 22, 2023.

Administration Department, Public Works, HR, Lands and Membership, Finance, and Council are all working together on Caring Together Week. Our Night is Friday, Sept. 22, 2023.

Theme: Country Hoedown (Requesting either Gimaa LaForme or Councillor Ashley Sault to Emcee)

Dinner: Char Wilson will be catering. As per previous years, those with Safe Food Handlers will serve.

- Roast Beef on a Bun
- Corn on the Cob
- Baked Beans
- Mac and Cheese

We will provide:

- Cake
- Water, Coffee and Tea

Entertainment:

- Country Music will be playing during the meal
- Country Photo Booth
- Pin the Tail and the Cow Game
- Coloring Table of Country Themes
- Michelle Farmers Dance Studio to come and teach Line Dancing. Still waiting on confirmation.
- Bouncy Castles, Bull Riding

Bonus:

- Giving everyone a country kerchief to wear during the evening event.
- The giveaway will be emergency kits starters.
- Everyone will put their name into a ballot box for a free prize of \$250.00 VISA card.
- Inviting everyone to come dressed in their best cowboy costume. Gimaa and Council will judge the event and we have 3 prizes of \$25.00 grocery store gift cards.
- Everyone will be able to put their name in the big draw for a grand prize of the week.

If the Council would like to add anything to our list, please contact Marlene or Caytlen.

Council moved to Agenda Item No. 10.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 – UNITED CHURCH RECORDS (EF)

By way of background Caron Smith from the Chapel of the Delaware United Church has requested copies of the New Credit United Church records.

Gimaa and Council agree that the New Credit United Church records can be shared if there is a digitized copy, and there are no costs.

Carol and Veronica Tobicoe are caretakers of the New Credit United Church and they are not in favor of allowing the United Church of Canada to have any of New Credit's records.

DIRECTION NO. 5

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council directs Councillor Erma Ferrell to follow up with Caron Smith/Delaware United Church, and inform her (Caron Smith) that MCFN will share a digitized copy of the New Credit United Church Record Books.

MOTION NO. 9

MOVED BY ANDREA KING

SECONDED BY GIMAA STACEY LAFORME

That the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Financial Planning & Fiscal Oversight Council moved to an In-Camera session at 1:40 pm.

Carried