

MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: September 9, 2025

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Meeting called to order by: Captain Martin at 6:11pm

IN ATTENDANCE

Patrick Veenstra, Thomas Francis, Gordon Van Es, Kylin Culhane, Jody Swanson, Phyllis Kelly, Kristi Gignac, Brad Martin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes made by Kylin. Seconded by Patrick.
Reminder to all present of Council meeting structure and Code of Conduct.

REPORTS

Open Issues:

Presentation by Quinn Hilsen made virtually.

- Quinn was contracted under the previous Local to do a survey of Local members.
- Her focus was to listen and provide some insight as to what the Local wanted moving forward.
- She interviewed 96 people using the Local membership list which had approximately 300 members.
- Additionally spoke to 25 youth at their High School. Some of the youth interviewed were no Metis or members of the Local or the District.
- Key finding: people spoke of how busy their lives are and they do not have time to attend extra activities (81%). Transportation from outside the St Albert area may be an issue (27%). Many indicated they were unaware of events that have taken place (42%). Some indicated that the programs offered were not of interest (23%).

Presentation by Candidates for Women's Representative. (invitation extended)

- Candidate Karen Acuna spoke.
- Candidate Jody Swanson spoke.
- Candidate Gabrielle Blatz spoke.
- Candidate Rhonda Baglot was unable to attend but sent a message to be read.
- No response from any other candidates.

Upcoming Events:

- Tea and Bannock at the Jensen Lakes Library, Wednesday Sept 17 4:00-6:00pm.
- Harvest Fest at the St Albert Grain Elevator Museum Saturday Sept 13 11:00-4:00pm.
- Language and the Metis People at the Musee Heritage, Friday Sept 19 2:00-3:00pm.
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Mission Hill, Tuesday, Sept 30 12:00-4:00pm.

New Business:

Council members and their roles.

- Gordon has an interest in the trades. Looking into harvesting programs.
- Thomas hopes to get out into community. Looking to connect with the schools.
- Jody is taking over Women's program. Women's program shows an invoice from Natalie for the program to run November 2025 to March 2026.
- Kylin has created a St Albert Metis District logo contest.
- Patrick is focusing on job creation in the Heartland and attended a job fair.
- Phyllis continues to lead Tea and Bannock programs, Youville Truthing Initiative project, Red Willow Metis Dancers, connections with the City of St Albert, Garden program, School District liaison committees, and the role of Secretary.
- Kristi is looking into Tea and Bannock programs in Sherwood Park and connections with Strathcona County, and the role of Treasurer.

Updates:

Windbreaker Running Club

- No update. Neither Jarod Letendre or Vernon Hagen were in attendance.

Red Willow Metis Dancers

- Open registration for any youth interested in attending. October 6, 6:00-7:00pm and October 20, 6:00-7:00pm.
- All classes now held at JJ Nearing School, 196 Deer Ridge Drive. St Albert.

Captain's update

- Part-time assistance for Captain. Captain has decided to hire the Secretary and Treasurer to work part-time to establish the new District until the end of March. Approved by Council.
- Technology update. We have met with three different companies to take over the technology. Ongoing.

Treasurer's update

- Meeting with the bank August 19th to transfer names and establish new accounts. Waiting on new cheque books.

Secretary's update

- Secretary, Treasurer and Captain attended Citizen's Gathering in August.
- Looking at taking over administration of Facebook, Instagram accounts.
- No access to website. Waiting to hear from the web designer about access. (Hype Interactive)
- Mailchimp is no longer functional for the number of Citizens in our District. Otipemisiwak Government is working on developing a way to communicate with Citizens that will be shared with each District once developed.
- Attended Role of the Secretary training.
- Supporting Community Recognition Award Ceremony honoring Tom Ghostkeeper.
- Supporting Flag Raising Ceremony with Greater St Albert Catholic Schools.

Questions from Citizens in attendance:

- Question about monitoring involvement. The Captain will reach out to Mark, former monitoring lead, to see if there are any emails regarding monitoring.
- Question about the Captain's Role. The Captain will update once he has been in the role for a while as he is still determining his role.

- Question about the Citizen's Rep. There has been no communication yet between the District Council and the Citizen's Rep.
- Question about the events in the other areas of the District. In development.
- Question about the outstanding invoices from Witten Law. Will address promptly once we have cheques.
- Question about the timing of Tea and Bannock and other events. Looking at more evening events as many on the Council has other obligations.
- Comment from Elder Archie. Reminder for Citizens to be patient as the District becomes more functional.
- Comment from Ombudsman Werth about how we have been able to onboard more quickly than other Districts in his opinion.

NEXT MEETING

- Next meeting will be October 14, 2025
- Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm