



ST ALBERT MÉTIS DISTRICT 11 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE:	APRIL 22, 2026 - 6:00 PM
LOCATION:	200,15 Rowland Place, St Albert
ATTENDING	Councillors Thomas Francis, Jody Swanson, Patrick Veenstra, Gordon VanEs, Kristi Gignac (left at 6:45), Kylin Culhane (online, left at 7:30), Captain Brad Martin

Call to Order:

District Captain Martin called the April 22, 2026, regular meeting of the St Albert Métis District Council 11 of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to order at 6:25PM.

Opening Prayer:

Archie delivered the opening prayer.

Adoption of Minutes:

MOTION #2026-04-22-1:

Moved by: Councillor Swanson

Be it resolved by the District Council that the agenda for the April 22, 2026, Regular Meeting of the District Council be adopted as amended to include the next date.

Seconded by: Councillor Veenstra

Result: carried

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the District Council Meeting, November 4, 2025

MOTION #2026-04-22-2:

Moved by: Councillor Veenstra

Be it resolved by the District Council that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District Council dated November 4, 2025 be approved as presented.

Seconded by: Councillor VanEs

Result: carried

Treasurer Update: The treasurer has been working with the bookkeeper to get everything ready for the auditor. We do not have finalized books yet, but these will be ready for the annual general meeting. Current amounts as of April 16, 2026; District General Operating Account 11,893.78, Council Account 45,992.03, Youville Chequing Account 92,493.82, Youville Savings Account 200,625.51, Windbreakers Account 70,906.05, Red Willow Account 3,577.80. All accounts have outstanding cheques and payments, so totals will fluctuate. Grants are anticipated. The wicehtowin Youville conference required onsite attendance to facilitate cheque writing and honorariums.

MOTION #2026-04-22-3

Moved by: Councillor Gignac

Be it resolved to use current administration fees collected by grants to pay the bookkeeper (J. Laboucan) to keep the books for the St Albert Metis District.

Seconded by Councillor VanEs

Result: Carried

Council Update:

Councillor Gignac: She will be stepping down as a Councillor and Treasurer with two weeks' notice given April 16, 2026. This was due to lack of leadership as well as a strained relationship after the Treasurer was served a notice to leave the position. The notice that was sent from the Captain was not legal or binding.

MOTION #2026-04-22-4

Moved by: Councillor Gignac to support the Strathcona County National Indigenous Peoples Day event with a donation to sponsor a portion of the day with 3000.00. Amended by Councillor Swanson to provide 1000.00 and the opportunity to host a table at the event.

Seconded by: Councillor Kelly

Result: passed with 4 yes votes, 2 no votes and 1 abstaining

MOTION # 2026-04-22-5

Moved by: Councillor Gignac to remove herself from bank signing authority and replace with Councillor VanEs.

Seconded by: Councillor Swanson

Result: passed

Councillor Francis: He has been spending time interacting with the community of Camrose and the area. He is looking to create a youth group that will begin in May. He will be bringing in knowledge holders to help facilitate the group. He is also looking to start a men's group. He volunteered at the Sherwood Park Trade Show. He also attended a dinner hosted in Tofield for Metis citizens in the area.

Councillor Swanson: She attended the St Albert Chamber of Commerce luncheon in January and brought greetings. She attended the January Tea and Bannock at the St Albert Public Library. The women's group wrapped up in March. She also volunteered at the wicehtowin Youville conference.

MOTION #2026-04-22-6

Moved by: Councillor Swanson to create a sub-committee to look at cultural programming, that will include Elders and Youth and seek funding for the programming. Councillors VanEs, Swanson, Culhane and Veenstra will serve on the committee.

Seconded by: Councillor Culhane

Result: passed

Councillor Veenstra: He has been attending several consultation meetings with various industries regarding a Data Center and Power Plant in Sturgeon County. He attended the Sherwood Park and St Albert Trade Shows to engage with citizens. He is helping host the Soup and Bannock for the Sturgeon County and Fort Saskatchewan area citizens. This will be held at St Kateri School from 4:30-7:00pm. Details on social media and the website calendar. He is interested in looking at cultural programming opportunities with the newly formed committee. He attended a Citizenship Oath Ceremony in Morinville and brought greetings on behalf of the St Albert Metis District. He volunteered with the wicehtowin Youville conference.

Councillor VanEs: He has been sharing wilderness classes in Camrose with the Elk Island Catholic School Board and is offering fur trading and trapper classes with the schools. Companies Enbridge and Jacobs have made offers to create a wildlife monitoring program with the District. To do this, they require a safety manual. He will be meeting with Elder Archie at Elk Island National Park for a meeting. He volunteered with the wicehtowin Youville conference. He also attended a dinner in Tofield for Metis citizens.

MOTION #2026-04-22-7

Moved by: Councillor VanEs to adopt the health and safety manual as a draft.

Seconded by: Councillor Veenstra

Result: passed

MOTION #2026-04-22-8

Moved by: Councillor VanEs to create a yearly budget item for promotional products for St Albert Metis district up to the amount of 2500.00

Seconded by: Councillor Veenstra

Result: passed

Councillor Culhane: She is also hosting the Soup and Bannock in Morinville for Sturgeon County and Fort Saskatchewan area. Fort Saskatchewan's Public Library in partnership with the St Albert Metis District had a very successful Tea and Bannock on March 19. The third Tea and Bannock

partnering is happening June 3 at 3:00pm at the Public Library in Fort Saskatchewan.

Councillor Kelly: She has attended monthly meetings with the St Albert Public Library to plan the monthly Tea and Bannock and other programming such a Tanisi, Let's Play and a possible book club with committee members Dawn and Teneya. Engagement with the City of St Albert continues with meetings with Indigenous Liaison team. National Day for Indigenous People is currently being planned and plans to help facilitate the new Red Willow Park Trail development. There is a River Lot gathering event planned for May 19th, more details on social media and the website. The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility team helped her facilitate a Blanket Exercise at the Seniors' Center. The grant for the Metis garden was finished and the final report submitted. She attended the Metis Two Spirit Gala on behalf of the Council. She attends Greater St Albert Catholic Schools and St Albert Public Schools community committees. These offer a chance for engagement within the schools in St Albert. This has included a Tea and Bannock at St Albert High, Vincent J Maloney, Bertha Kennedy, and at Ecole Sacre Coeur. She also attended a Tea and Bannock hosted by St Albert Public School in the evening with another one on April 28. The District only consults on these events; there is no cost to the District. She has been attending consultation meetings with EPCOR, and other organizations as offered through OMG's consultation department to learn about upcoming developments that may impact the District. The Red Willow Metis Dancers meet every Monday for a practice. They have been asked to perform at various events including the City of Edmonton, conferences, Canada Day and the Run for Reconciliation. Under the direction of the parents, some of our practices are held at seniors' homes for exposure in front of an audience. They will be performing next at Metis Spring Festival over the May long weekend. The Red Willow Metis Dancers Committee have taken over planning and coordinating events, equipment needs and practice requirements.

MOTION #2026-04-22-9

Moved by: Councillor Kelly to provide an honorarium for the Red Willow Metis Dancers Committee.

Seconded by: Councillor Veenstra

Result: passed

MOTION #2026-04-22-10

Moved by: Councillor Kelly to provide \$3000.00 toward jigging competition prize awards at the Metis Spring Festival on May 16 and 17, 2026 as hosted by the Metis Child and Family Service.

Seconded by: Councillor Francis

Result: passed

Secretary Update:

We continue to participate in Chamber of Commerce events when possible, including Chamber lunches, Chamber award ceremony where Sturgeon River Utilities won an award and most recently at the Lifestyle Expo Trade Show. OMG's communication department is planning a way to send emails to citizens in our District that will be at no cost to our District. With close to 9000 citizens in our area (we finally received our Citizen List and it has been shared with Council after confidentiality agreements were signed), it would be a big cost to have something on our own. Facebook, Instagram, and our new website are all operational and updated.

Finally, my update includes my letter of resignation from the role of Secretary. This comes with much reflection on the time commitment required of this role as well as the conflict, safety issues and lack of support from the Captain, making it impossible to stay in the role. I will remain as a Councillor.

MOTION #2026-04-22-11

Moved by: Councillor Kelly that a Council meeting agenda is shared with Council 24 hours prior to a meeting and any required information is added.

Seconded by: Councillor Veenstra

Result: passed

Captain's update: The Captain stated that it is a learning experience with a lot of information bringing in without a lot of guidance. He has all the

information from when he first went in and took the oath. There are a lot of negativities from onboarding. The binder gives some information but not all and is without guidelines. He rushed, picking the secretary and treasurer, and he did not get to know everyone. Jim and the Ombudsman gave him some guidelines. He was told he could choose but he didn't. He is taking in information.

wicehtowin Youville update – This is a community led project with 4 elders and about 12 community members that drive the activities. We have our own terms of relationship, own mandate, and a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Center for Truth and Reconciliation with over 4000 documents in safe storage. There has been a documentary created by Dylan Reade that includes community voices. Youville Residential School was a unique school established within a Metis community. There were about 2500 students who attended with 170 deaths of students (primarily from TB). We are beginning to work on a database. Council members are stepping forward, but the Youville committee members did not see support from the Captain at the end of February conference hosted by the Youville committee. The conference began with a January event where all the impacted nations were invited to get their children's information prior to the conference. Year-end accounting and required reporting are being finalized with an employee hired and will be shared with the Youville committee when it is completed. The Lead is grateful to the committee members and Elders who give their time. There are committee members that are invited to a conference next month to talk about the project and the development of the documentary. The committee will be working on sharing the documentary with the impacted Nations and broader communities. There is no funding news from the Federal Government.

Sturgeon River Utilities update – Sturgeon River Utilities has completed its first fiscal year. The partnership is owned by the LP and a working relationship with Sponsor Energy. We fully control the utilities as a district. Sept. 30 is the year end for GBH LP, and returns are filed with CRA. Herc Rentals was onboarded as a client in October. Stickers are on the doors of their facilities. Monthly billing messages to customers is changing to spotlight indigenous entrepreneurs. May and June will be advertising the year end on June 13 for community engagement. Marketing spots are on the

Chamber of Commerce digital board at the entrance to St Albert for February to April and also on a bus bench on Kingway Avenue in Edmonton outside the OMG office. Astro Oil Fields were the first business to post stickers. The St Albert Public Library will do that at Jensen Lakes location. All funds go into the LP (Limited partner), but they are not being paid so taxes can be paid. All other monies go to marketing of the SRU. Beaded Logo pins were given to St Albert sub-district councillors and Nicole Baker from Enbridge. Filling with lawyers is also paid through the SRU. Hiring people will be necessary as the work is increasing. Own source revenue is important for Metis housing and to buy housing. The district will never be able to run a housing program on its own but in coordination with Metis Housing.

MOTION #2026-04-22-12

Moved by: Councillor Kelly to support Sturgeon River Utilities moving from a marketer to a retailer with a 40,000 grant to pay for a feasibility study to investigate.

Seconded by: Councillor Veenstra

Result: passed

Questions from the public (in attendance and online)

Question regarding the sale of River Lot 22 in St Albert after an email was sent to the Captain with no response. A request was made to Council to discuss the cost. Asked that the email be forwarded to the secretary for distribution to Council.

Action item: look at the possibility of purchasing River Lot 22, after Council views the letter sent.

Question regarding the new structure of the Council meetings and if all Council members are being honest with themselves regarding the work required and be willing to admit if the job is beyond them.

Questions about how monitors are chosen and who is allowed to be on the list for monitoring.

Question if the Captain is willing to do the items requested by the Treasurer and Secretary in order to keep them in their positions.

Question regarding the possibility of a citizens' committee to inform the Council.

Question regarding the potential of a time limit for the Captain to show progress.

Question regarding the Captain's response to citizen's emails.

Action item: All emails sent to the Captain should cc all Council.

Question regarding if the Captain feels responsible to the District citizens rather than to the OMG and exhibits accountability, representation and transparency.

Question regarding the motion to create roles and responsibilities for the elected positions. Follow up question regarding the consequences if the roles and responsibilities are not completed.

MOTION #2026-04-22-13

Moved by: Councillor Swanson to create a survey requesting citizens input into the roles and responsibilities of Council positions.

Seconded by: Councillor VanEs

Result: passed

Question about the current office space and what is being done in order to facilitate a new space and meeting space. The offer was made to help with programming funds for Soup and Bannock or family bingo.

Question about the Metis Kitchen Party being held on May 30.

Question about learning through reciprocity and not waiting for others to direct people to tell them what to do. Further comments about needing to win is a flaw and that Indigenous people don't see themselves as an island.

Question regarding the use of mail chimp. Clarification around the POPA (Protection of Privacy Act June 11, 2025) governing how public bodies collect, use, and disclose personal information including emails.

Question that asked about the technical issues causing the online sound to cut out and missing the Captain's update or that the Captain is reflecting on the role.

Question around ground penetrating radar. Clarification that it is not in Youville's current funding mandate and that authority from all the surrounding nations would need much consultation.

Question about the Captain's hours and workday obligations.

Question about what concrete actions or activities has been done by the Captain as he has not provided an update of accomplished tasks.
Clarification that the Captain did not write an update but has it in his head.

Question around the role of the Ombudsman. Clarification that the Ombudsman brings concerns to the judicial board.

Closing Prayer:

Archie delivered the closing prayer.

Adjournment:

Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30pm. (No motion made by the Captain).

Next meeting:

May 27, 2026 6:00pm.

Tracked Motions:**Motion #2026-04-22-1**

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