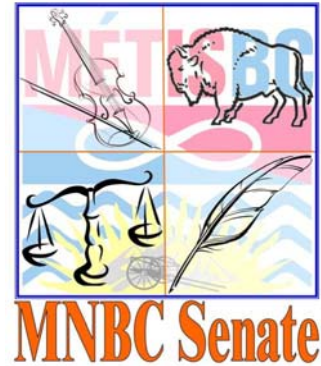


# Senate Meeting Minutes

*Kelowna, B.C., June 13-14, 2008  
Holiday Inn Express Hotel, Klondike Room*

**Senators Present:** Al Edkins, Ron Snider, Philip Gladue, Gerald Pope, Bob Adams, Bill Thibeault and Margaret Penner

**Administrative Assistance:** Dean Trumbley, Interim Senate Clerk



## June 13, 2008

1. Call to order, June 13, at 10:10 hr
2. Opening prayer – Senator Gladue
3. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

*Nominations: Senator Edkins for chairman*

*Moved by: Senator Snider*

*Seconded by: Senator Penner*

*Senator Edkins acclaimed as chairman.*

*Motion: Senator Thibeault for vice-chairman*

*Moved by: Senator Pope*

*Seconded by: Senator Adams*

*Motion: Senator Pope for vice-chairman*

*Moved by: Senator Thibeault*

*Senator Pope declined.*

*Senator Thibeault acclaimed as vice-chairman.*

*Secretary position:* If have as formal position, will need to modify policies and procedures to allow for that. For now will continue to appoint on an adhoc basis each meeting, with Senator Thibeault expected to carry out the duties normally. Having secretary take notes and pass on to Clerk helps ensure thoroughness of minutes.

4. Review and Approval of Agenda

Amendments:

Add 3) Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for Senate.

5) Senate Policies and Procedures Update

*Motion: That the agenda be approved as modified.*

*Moved by: Senator Adams*

*Seconded by: Senator Gladue*

*Carried*

5. Senate Policies and Procedures

Has been approved by the Board of Directors, note received phone call from CEO Henry on the approval of the version 2.0 P&P.

6. IN CAMERA SESSION – CITIZENSHIP APPEALS

7. March 04-08, 2008 minutes. Tabled for approval until the June conference call.

8. Update on 2008/09 Negotiations

There has been an increase in funding from tripartite; however MNBC will continue to lobby for funding for Senate database system. At this time, the Government of Canada is providing about

\$90,000.00 and the provincial government \$60,000 for running of Senate. Senator Pope spoke about opportunity to discuss funding with Minister Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Minister Neufeld may be able to assist with obtaining funding for the development of the Senate database system.

**ROD – 001** – *Senate Clerk will send information to Senator Pope for assisting with discussions with Minister Neufeld on funding for database system development.*

9. Community Justice Update.

Métis have been denied funding for the community justice system, all the funding went to First Nations communities. This has created concern for BCMANR as they worked hard to set up the training with the expectation of funding to apply the system. BCMANR will continue to pursue this matter with the federal government representatives.

10. New Cases

At this time, two cases ready for July sitting. One is the case from this sitting that has been adjourned pending further investigation by the Registrar's office in light of additional material supplied by the appellant on June 14, 2008.

11. Elections

Need to have three Senators ready on 24 hour notice if there is an appeal on the election matters. The senate expressed concerns on need to deal with matters swiftly given time frames of election, and the need to deal with challenges promptly. Basically would need to be available from August 13, 2008 call until conclusion of election process, to occur on September 13, 2008. Senators Edkins, Adams and Penner are appointed for this process. Senator Gladue is alternate in case of any reason one of the appointed Senators cannot attend. For electoral results which are to be released by midnight on September 13, 2008, appeals would be dealt with by Senate as a whole. Would be another short time period due to time proximity to AGM, and need to have elected officials in place in order to have AGM.

**ROD – 002** – *Clerk to work on development of process for election appeals, similar to process and forms used for mediation. The Senate would provide a seven-day response period to both appellant and respondent.*

Two Senators will work with Captain's Assembly on development of policies and procedures for the implementation of the Natural Resource Act. This would provide assistance if questions arise on appeal process for the Natural Resources Act. Senator Penner and Senator Snider to provide assistance as requested.

12. Old Business

a) Seal manufacture and registration

Have been delays, need to look at another option/location to get seals manufactured.

**ROD – 003** – *Senator Edkins and Clerk to look into options. Clerk will discuss where MNBC had their seal made and registered to see if we can use that route.*

b) Review on July/August sitting

Two cases planned (Lussier and Thorne) both will be heard on July 31, 2008. Due to other pressing matters for Senators and Clerk, all business needs to be completed that day.

c) North American Indigenous Games (NAIG)

Senators will be in VIP row with First Nations elders on August 3, from 2 – 4 p.m. for opening ceremonies.

d) Vests

Should be ready by August 01, 2008 along with the ribbon shirts, the vest cost is about \$250.00 each, shirts about \$200.00, as per costs presented to CEO Keith Henry. CEO feels costs should not be a problem for MNBC to fund, total is in the range of \$2100.00.

e) Coat

Made to 45 inch chest size, cost about \$300 for hides alone, recommended cost to sell is about \$2, 500.00.

**ROD – 004** – *Coat will be raffled at AGM, should not be an issue to collect sufficient funds from auction to cover costs and provide some funding for other Senate matters.*

f) Regional Governance Councils and Community Elections

Senators are to excuse themselves from any political discussions. Attend for opening prayer and Senate report, and be available for closing prayer.

g) Communications

Concerns arising on G-Mail system, messages getting lost, perhaps we need to look at another system to meet our communication needs.

**ROD – 005** – *Senate Clerk will get Brian to look into problems and solutions to deal with issues.*

13. New Business

a) Invoices

Invoices for first quarter will be prepared today. All the Senators are to sign the invoices for the Clerk to take to the MNBC office for processing.

b) New Board Of Directors Inauguration

The swearing in ceremony is to be held prior to start of AGM, Senators Edkins and Gladue to conduct opening prayer in English, French and Cree. The rest of Senate is to be in a semi-circle behind them. The Board of Directors has a standardized swearing in oath. Procedure will be to swear in President, Vice-President, Board of Directors, Métis Women's Representatives, and Métis Youth Representatives.

**ROD – 006** – *Senator Edkins and Clerk Trumbley to meet with CEO Henry on process. Clerk to obtain standardized oath, place in Policies and Procedures for Senate.*

c) Elder Presence at Meetings

Out of respect for our Elders, our culture and traditions, we should ask to have an elder present at all our meetings for the opening and closing aspects of business part of meetings. Would also need to have a culturally appropriate gift to present to Elder in gratitude for presence at our meetings, a suggestion was an item with the Senate logo on it.

14. Meeting adjourned, June 14, 2008 at the hour of 15:15.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Thibeault, *Senate Secretary*